THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL LGBTQ+ LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

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MIDLANDS ZONE

FEBRUARY 2020 ISSUE 273

MIDLANDS ZONE Readers' Awards 2020

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED!

BRUM PRIDE LINE-UP REVEALED!

GINNY LEMON

THIS MONTH'S KILLER QUEEN

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE

AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL COMES TO THE MIDLANDS

+ SCENE FEATURES WHAT'S ON COMPETITIONS

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What's inside:

February issue

ALSO INSIDE:

News 4 Birmingham Pride Line-up 2020 8
Readers' Awards Finalists 18 On The Ball 23
Lacey Lou Column 24 Cat's Corner 27
LGBT History Month 29 Competitions 33
Theatre/Arts 37 Now & 10 Years Ago 40

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41 SCENE GUIDE

Lacey Lou talks DRESSING UP AND COMING OUT

Midlands Zone columnist Lacey Lou will this month take part in a Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG) discussion about the role and importance of dressing up within the LGBTQ+ community.

Performance artist, event manager and costume maker Lacey will be joined for the evening by Dr Shaun Cole - Associate Professor in Fashion at Winchester School of Art - and curator, writer and researcher Ryan Kearney. Ryan's research centres on queer nighttime spaces, with a particular focus on gentrification, memory and cross-generational exchange.

Chairing the panel will be Jon Sleigh, a freelance arts educator and learning curator working across the UK on a diverse portfolio of national galleries and projects.

Dressing Up, Coming Out: Fashion In The LGBTQ+ Community takes place at BMAG on the evening of Thursday 6 February.

LGBTQ CINEQ FEST RETURNS TO BIRMINGHAM!

LGBTQ+ film festival CineQ is to return to Birmingham for a second year.

Taking place at several venues across the city, the four-day event aims to 'create a fun and safe space in the city for the LGBTQ+ community to gather, discuss important topics and enjoy a range of diverse queer cinema'.

Highlights of the 2020 edition of CineQ include screenings of the films Monsoon, The Watermelon Woman, End Of The Century and Portrait Of Jason, the latter movie opening the festival.

CineQ will once again feature experimental digital event Watch Parties, which takes place in the 10 days prior to the main festival with the intention of connecting people who are otherwise isolated in society.

A selection of curated short films and submissions will be screened on the CineQ Facebook page to encourage collective viewing and discussion.

CineQ runs in Birmingham from Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 March. For more information and full listings, visit cineqbirmingham.co.uk

Shropshire founder of Gay's The Word bookshop gifts 30,000 LGBT books...

A Shropshire-based founder of London's famous Gay's The Word bookshop, who died last year aged 82, has left a collection of 30,000 LGBT books to the University of London.

Jonathan Cutbill's collection, which he began to develop in the 1970s ahead of the opening of Gay's The Word, includes books from as far back as the 18th century and features novels, pamphlets and newspapers, among which are copies of all the editions of Gay News, which ran for 11 years.

Speaking about the collection, a friend of Mr Cutbill, Geoff Hardy, is reported by the BBC as saying: "The idea was to stock the books that other people were not stocking, but also to become a bookshop with the knowledge of LGBTQ history and literature.

"Not only is it a phenomenal collection dating way back to 1760, it is also catalogued and cross referenced - he was a museum man."

Bears up The Tunnel...

FOLLOWING 'THE CORE' CLOSURE

Following the recent closure of The Core on Birmingham's Sherlock Street, regular Bears night XXL has moved to a new venue for 2020.

The monthly event is now taking place at The Tunnel Club - formerly Subway City - on Livery Street.

An inaugural event on 17 January was hailed a great success and featured XXL regular DJ Paul Morrell and a performance from acclaimed vocalist Katherine Ellis.

A spokesperson from XXL told Midlands Zone: "We want to grow the monthly event to what it once was, take over the whole venue and have two dedicated rooms of music."

The next Birmingham XXL club night take place on Friday 21 February.

Have ya heard?

GAY SEX 'falls short of God's purpose'

Sex in gay or straight civil partnerships 'falls short of God's purpose for human beings', according to the Church of England.

Pastoral guidance issued by bishops in response to the recent introduction of mixed-sex civil partnerships reads: "For Christians, marriage - that is, the lifelong union between a man and a woman, contracted with the making of vows - remains the proper context for sexual activity."

It adds: "Sexual relationships outside heterosexual marriage are regarded as falling short of God's purpose for human beings."

The bishops continue: "Because of the ambiguity about the place of sexual activity within civil partnerships of both sorts, and the church's teaching that marriage between a man and a woman is the proper context for sexual intercourse, we do not believe it is possible for the church unconditionally to accept civil partnerships as unequivocally reflecting the teaching of the church."

Jess takes to forum to defend TRANS RIGHTS

Birmingham Yardley MP Jess Phillips has had quite a time of it of late. Not only did she decide to drop out of the contest to become the next leader of the Labour party, she also found herself in hot water for supporting trans rights in a Q&A session with users of the Mumsnet web forum.

During the session on the forum, which is frequently used by anti-trans activists, Phillips wrote: "I do believe transwomen are women and helped to write the report that suggested changes to the GRA (Gender Recognition Act).

"I don't think it is transphobic for, in the process of changing the GRA in the future, questions of safety to be considered.

"Women's-only spaces are vital in protecting women and helping women escape violence. I ran a women's domestic and sexual violence service and am confident in specialist services being able to risk-assess for safety."

The MP's comments provoked plenty of negative reaction on the forum. Responses included: 'You can't protect women from sexism if you can't define 'woman' or 'sex', 'Biology is not bigotry' and 'I'm going to have to stick with the Tories who, despite their faults, do actually know what a woman is'.

New role for teacher in LGBT lessons row

The gay teacher at the centre of the row in Birmingham schools about the teaching of LGBT-inclusive lessons is now doing a different job.

Andrew Moffat, deputy head teacher at Parkfield Community School, will spend less time in the classroom and more time in a 'strategic' role, helping to spread the word about his No Outsiders educational programme to other schools.

No Outsiders was originated by Mr Moffat six years ago and features material designed to educate primary school children about equality, including LGBT relationships.

The programme led to protests taking place outside the predominantly Muslim school, with activists joining some parents in complaining that the LGBT-inclusive lessons were at odds with the Muslim faith.

According to the Times, in a letter to parents, Hazel Pulley, chief executive of Parkfield's ruling body, Excelsior Mat Academy, explained the decision regarding Mr Moffat's job change. She wrote: "Mr Moffat will be leading on personal development across all our schools, which includes No Outsiders, Right Respecting Schools and elements such as British values."

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Have ya heard?

NEW UK TOUR: Chatty Man Alan Carr

Award-winning comedian Alan Carr is heading out on tour in the autumn and will be stopping off at three Midlands venues.

It's been four years since Chatty Man Alan last hit the road, during which time he's managed to find himself at the centre of all sorts of adventures - enjoying a star-studded wedding day, becoming an accidental anarchist, fearing for his life at border control and reluctantly embracing the challenges of farming!

You can catch Alan's new show - Not Again, Alan! - at: Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Saturday 3 October; De Montfort Hall, Leicester, on Tuesday 13 October & Thursday 19 November; Birmingham Hippodrome on Thursday 5 & Friday 6 November; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry on Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 November.

FREE Street Party at BRUM PRIDE

A popular Birmingham Gay Village venue is to host its biggest-ever Pride celebrations this year - for which it will have its very own road closures.

Eden Bar is set to 'be the biggest it's ever been' said owner Garry Prentice on announcing the venue's first-ever street party.

The council has granted a license to close the road between Eden and Second City Suite. A marquee with stage, food stalls, extra toilets & bars and a seated area will all feature.

A free event, Eden Street Party will take place at the same time as Birmingham Pride on Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 May.

Councillor apologises to Coventry Pride

A Coventry councillor has apologised after suggesting that LGBTQ people were 'promiscuous'.

Glenn Williams, who sits on the council as an independent, had also said that two women kissing constituted 'pornography'. Speaking at a full council meeting on the subject of same-sex education, Councillor Williams had said: "Last week, a friend of mine who is very broadminded, telephoned me as her 13-year-old son had come home from school because his teacher had given them tips - I'm sorry, I'm not very comfortable about this - about how to come out, and had shown a video of two women kissing.

"Does Councillor Maton [the cabinet member for education] agree with me that this sort of video - which, bluntly, I regard as pornography - should not be shown in Coventry schools?"

Councillor Williams' apology for the comments, delivered in a video posted online, came after he had met with members of Coventry Pride and gay schoolteacher Andrew Moffat - the man behind the No Outsiders equality programme, who led last year's Birmingham Pride parade.

In the video, the councillor said: "I'm really grateful to have met with members of Coventry Pride. They have really helped me a lot, more than people might realise.

"I just need to tell you, to members of the LGBT community and others, I owe you such a big apology - and that is meant very sincerely; very sincerely indeed."

He continued: "I'm really grateful to Coventry Pride for what they have done tonight and what I hope we can do in the future."

Fancy a bit of COCK?

A metrosexual play about love, longing and the complexity of relationships is being presented at a Birmingham theatre in the spring.

Entitled Cock, Mike Bartlett's play focuses on a man named John who's identified as gay his entire life. But during a break in a tempestuous relationship with his long-term partner, he meets a woman to whom he finds himself attracted. When a sexual liaison ensues, John finds himself not only torn between his partner and his new lover but also unexpectedly confused about his own sexuality...

Cock shows at the city's Crescent Theatre from 9 to 16 May.

Birmingham Pride confirms Destiny's Child's Kelly Rowland as one of the headliners for the new bigger festival

Midlands Zone can exclusively reveal that former Destiny's Child band member Kelly Rowland will take top billing on the Sunday of this year's Birmingham Pride festival.

The international recording artist, whose numerous solo hits include When Love Takes Over, will be specially flown in from America to perform on the Pride main stage.

In addition to being one of the three band members of Destiny's Child - who sold over 60 million records worldwide - Kelly more recently has appeared as one of the judges on The X-Factor (in 2011) and as a judge on The Voice in both America and Australia.

She will be joined on the main stage by Peppermint - the trans RuPaul's DragRace finalist from season nine of the hit TV show. In 2018, Peppermint became the first trans woman to originate a principal role on Broadway when she starred in the musical, Head Over Heels.

Further enhancing a fantastic Pride 2020 line-up are The Vengaboys, who'll be delivering plenty of high-energy camp during a headline performance that will see them belting out hits including We Like To Party, Boom Boom Boom Boom and Up And Down.

All three artists will perform at Pride on Sunday 24 May, with more star names soon to be announced.

CONFIRMED

THE VENGABOYS

CONFIRMED

RU PAUL'S DRAGRACE TRANS STAR PEPPERMINT

The line-up for Saturday 23 May is being kept a closely guarded secret and will be revealed at the end of February.

This year marks the start of a brand new era for Birmingham Pride - one of the UK's largest LGBTQ festivals - with the event's entertainment areas, including the Main Stage, Cabaret Stage, Dance Arena and funfair, all being situated on Smithfield, the former Birmingham Wholesale Market site adjacent to the city's gay village.

The Birmingham Pride Street Party, which runs alongside the Festival, will continue to take place within the gay village area, which will also host the Future Stage.

Commenting on the move, Birmingham Pride Festival Director Lawrence Barton said: "Whilst the gay village will remain at the heart of the event as an integral part of the celebrations, the new Festival site on the former Birmingham Wholesale Market gives us the opportunity to make Birmingham Pride 2020 the biggest and best yet."

Birmingham City Council Leader, Councillor Ian Ward, said: "Birmingham Pride has become one of the absolute highlights of our cultural calendar, and Birmingham City Council is delighted to continue supporting such a fantastic, inclusive event. This is a city where all communities live, work and play together, and I have no doubt that, as the Festival moves to a new home in Smithfield, Birmingham Pride 2020 will prove to be yet another triumph."

Pride organisers last November announced that senior citizens and accompanied children under the age of 12 will be able to go to the Festival and Street Party free of charge.

Festival Tickets for Birmingham Pride, this year taking place on Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 May and including the Street Party (or just for the Street Party), are now available at www.birminghampride.com

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EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT LAYTON

Smash-hit LGBTQ+ musical Everybody's Talking About Jamie is strutting its stuff in the Midlands next month - and heading up its cast is the openly gay star of stage and screen Layton Williams...

What's Everybody's Talking About Jamie all about, Layton?

It's about a 16-year-old boy who's finding his way in the world and wants to be a drag queen one day So this is the start of his journey into that. He's still at school and has a close relationship with his mum but a distant one with his dad, so the musical explores that a bit too. He's basically just trying to become his inner, fabulous self, and to do that he thinks he needs to leave his home in Sheffield. But by the end of the story, he realises that home is where the heart is. It's a family show that should make you laugh and make you cry - just give you all the feels!

How do the people around Jamie react to him?

His friends are super supportive. His mum also rallies around him, at least to a certain point where she thinks he might've gone too far His teacher is always telling him to 'keep it real', but Jamie says he doesn't need to be 'real'; he's just himself and his drag persona. His dad really hates his drag. Everybody's opinions are tossed at him all the time, when really it should be about how *he* feels, which is the particularly interesting part of the story. So definitely the reactions to Jamie are mixed, but that's reflective of the world that we live in. Everyone has their different opinions and it depends on whether you want to take them on board or not.

What would you say is the main ethos of the show?

It tries to tell people to stay true to who they are and be proud of themselves; and that if they're different or feel like they don't fit in, then there's a place for them in the world anyway. It's all about having hope. When we're young, we doubt ourselves, but it's just about knowing that things will get better. It's about surrounding yourself with your friends, family and people who you love. It also tells us that people can change their opinion and become more open-minded. I hope people think about all of these things when they come to see the show.

Do you think its messages are the main reason for Jamie's success?

Absolutely. People leave the theatre inspired, with their hearts open, thinking that the world isn't as crazy a place as it seems. There's definitely hope, especially for younger generations coming through. We can live in a world where - while you might not be on board with how people are, or how they live their lives - we can all be a bit kinder to one another

Do you have a favourite musical number and scene in the show?

I really love the opening number, And You Don't Even Know It, because it's about Jamie's dream world. He's dreaming about being the big star, the drag queen that he wants to be, and about everyone around him being behind him 100%. I also love the closing scene, when he's been on this incredible rollercoaster and can just stand there in his heels, putting out the bins and being 'in this place where I belong, where we belong', as the song goes. It's really beautiful to be able to watch him and think to yourself, 'Yes, Jamie, go!'.

Did you have any experiences with drag before playing Jamie?

Not really. I guess I dress in drag for Halloween, or Hallow-Queen as I like to call it. Every Halloween I do enjoy a nice wig and a six inch heel! But really the first time I got into full drag was the first time we shot things for Jamie. I'm an actor, so if you want me to play a drag queen, I'll happily play a drag queen!

What's your view on LGBTQ+ representation in the school curriculum?

I've worked with charities such as Diversity Role Models, so I've seen first-

hand those who are driving schools for change, which is fab. I think every school should have a charitable organisation involved with it, to make sure that students from all minority backgrounds feel like they're represented, like they're not alone, and to help them realise that there are other people just like them. LGBTQ+ should 100% be on the national curriculum, and the school should be the safest space for children to feel confident about being themselves. They should be supported by their schools and teachers. There's so much happening, and I've been in schools giving that kind of talk myself, so have seen it with my own eyes. But there's always more to be done!

What was your own school life like?

I wasn't exactly out at school, but I think it was kind of obvious that I was maybe, you know, a little bit gay! I was just doing my thing and was quite a confident kid, so I could cope with people trying to get at me. But most of my school years I spent at theatre school, so I was lucky to be surrounded by lots of openly LGBTQ+ teachers and students. Back in the day at school, it was hard for us! And I think one thing I would take from Jamie is wishing that I could've been out and proud when I was back at school. But then I also think that everything happens for a reason, and that timing is key. At the same time, I still look back and think that I did what I needed to do, what was right for *me*.

Do you think the representation of minority groups in theatre and other art forms is improving?

I'm a prime example that we're absolutely moving in the right direction. I'm a non white gay actor playing this part that was once white - and now another mixed race man has been cast too. I saw a black Juliet in Romeo And Juliet last night. Things be changing! People are waking up and realising that this is what we want to see. We want to see everyone represented. This is a moment in history - a movement, too. I'm so proud to be a part of that.

Where do you hope your career goes in the future?

Stage, screen - you name it, I want to be there. I've been very lucky in that I've done so much already in my career, and I'm ready to go for any opportunity that comes my way!

Finally, sum up Everybody's Talking About Jamie in three words...

Fun. Family. Freedom!

Everybody's Talking About Jamie visits The Alexandra, Birmingham, from Monday 16 to Saturday 21 March; Theatre Royal, Nottingham, from Monday 20 to Saturday 25 April; Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, from Tuesday 23 to Saturday 27 June; and Curve Theatre, Leicester, from Monday 29 June to Saturday 4 July.

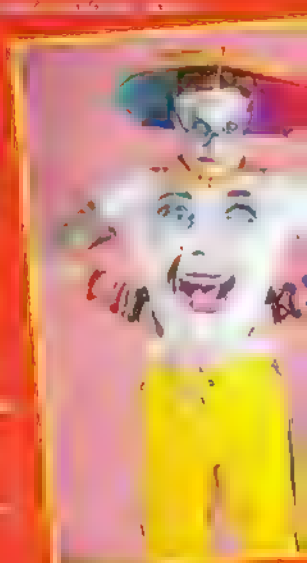
Centre stage is 25 year-old Layton Williams who debuted in the West End in May 2007 as Billy Elliot in Billy Elliot The Musical

Birmingham's Killer Queens series is a photography art project by Laura Chen which focuses on the city's drag queens Each month we'll be featuring a number of the artists who appear in Laura's project.

BIRMINGHAM'S

KILLER QUEENS

GINNY LEMON



BIRMINGHAM'S

KILLER QUEENS

TEAL SPARKES

piece of art.

personally, drag is

I've always had an
art form, but I've never had the money or
the body to really be a part of the fashion

JACK MAESHAM

"It was a massive plunge to take, to actually
go out with a wig, high heels, corsets and

When in drag, I feel much more confident

MIDLANDS ZONE

Readers' Awards 2020

The Top 5

After more than 9,500 votes were cast in Part One of the Midlands Zone Readers' Awards, we're pleased to announce your top five finalists in each category.

Online voting has now re-opened so that you can choose your winner!

But hurry - voting will end on Monday 17 February 2020.

All previous votes will be added to the new votes cast.

Make sure you pick up a copy of the March issue of Midlands Zone, because that's where you'll see all of your winners!

In the meantime, get voting now at **midlandszone.co.uk**

GET VOTING NOW! midlandszone.co.uk

Best Birmingham Gay Nightclub

Top 5 Finalists

- **Boltz**
- **Club Chic**
- **Glamorous**
- **The Nightingale**
- **Village Underground**

Best Midlands Gay Nightclub (outside B'ham)

Top 5 Finalists

- **Glamorous** - Coventry
- **Gorgeous** - Wolverhampton
- **Gossip** - Stoke-On-Trent
- **Propaganda** - Nottingham
- **The Lion** - Walsall
- **The Yard** - Coventry

Best Birmingham Gay Bar

Top 5 Finalists

- **Eden**
- **The Loft**
- **Missing**
- **The Fox**
- **The Village Inn**

Best Midlands Gay Bar (outside Birmingham)

Top 5 Finalists

- **Bar Diva** - Dudley
- **Glamorous** - Coventry
- **The Flag** - Worcester
- **The Lion** - Walsall
- **The Yard** - Coventry

Best Midlands Community Gay Bar

Top 5 Finalists

- **Dover Castle** - Leicester
- **Eden** - Birmingham
- **Equator** - Birmingham
- **The Loft** - Birmingham
- **The Yard** - Coventry

Best Midlands Cafe Bar / Restaurant

Top 5 Finalists

- **The Loft** - Birmingham
- **Rainbow & Dove** - Leicester
- **Sidewalk** - Birmingham
- **Peach Tree** - Shrewsbury
- **The Yard** - Coventry

Best Midlands Bar/Club for Men

Top 5 Finalists

- **Bar Diva** - Dudley
- **Boltz** - Birmingham
- **Eden** - Birmingham
- **The Fountain Inn** - Birmingham
- **The Yard** - Coventry

Best Midlands Bar/Club for Women

Top 5 Finalists:

- **Bar Diva** - Dudley
- **Eden** - Birmingham
- **The Fox** - Birmingham
- **Gossip** - Stoke-on-Trent
- **The Yard** - Coventry

Best Midlands Bar/Club for the Trans Community

Top 5 Finalists:

- **Bar Diva** - Dudley
- **Eden** - Birmingham
- **Missing** - Birmingham
- **Equator** - Birmingham
- **The Yard** - Coventry

Best Midlands Venue Outdoor Area

Top 5 Finalists

- **Eden** - Birmingham
- **The Lion** - Walsall
- **The Loft** - Birmingham
- **The Village Inn** - Birmingham
- **The Yard** - Coventry

Best Midlands New Venue / Refurb

Top 5 Finalists

- **Gossip** - Stoke
- **Glamorous** - Coventry
- **Missing Bar** - Birmingham
- **Sequin Showstoppers** - Brum
- **The Yard (refurb)** - Coventry

Best Midlands venue Front of House Team

Top 5 Finalists

- **Eden** - Birmingham
- **Missing Bar** - Birmingham
- **The Loft** - Birmingham
- **The Village Inn** - Birmingham
- **The Yard** - Coventry

Best OVERALL Birmingham Venue

Top 5 Finalists

- **Eden**
- **The Loft**
- **Missing**
- **The Nightingale**
- **The Village Inn**

Best OVERALL Midlands Venue (outside Birmingham)

Top 5 Finalists

- **Bar Diva** - Dudley
- **Glamorous** - Coventry
- **Gorgeous** - Wolverhampton
- **Gossip** - Stoke on Trent
- **The Yard** - Coventry

Best Midlands Venue One-Nighter

Top 5 Finalists

- **Church of Yshee** @ Village Inn - Birmingham
- **Eden Quizzical** @ Eden - Birmingham
- **Klub Kidz** @ The Nightingale - Birmingham
- **Killer Queens** @ Eden Bar - Birmingham
- **Identity with Simon Baker** @ The Yard - Coventry

Finalists REVEALED!

Best Midlands Live Entertainment venue

Top 6 Finalists

- **Bar Diva** - Dudley
- **Eden** - Birmingham
- **Missing** - Birmingham
- **The Nightingale** - Birmingham
- **The Village Inn** - Birmingham
- **The Yard** - Coventry

Best Midlands LGBT Event

Top 5 Finalists

- **CineQ Film Fest (Birmingham)**
- **MidBears, (Eden Birmingham)**
- **Queer Prom (Gale, B'ham)**
- **SHOUT Festival, Birmingham**
- **The Circle (Loft, Birmingham)**

Best LGBT Sport or Social Group

Top 5 Finalists

- **BGSO**
- **Birmingham Bulls RFC**
- **Coventry Corairs Rugby Club**
- **Rainbow Voices**
- **The Circle**

Best Midlands venue Security Team

Top 5 Finalists

- **Eden** - Birmingham
- **The Village Inn** - Birmingham
- **Missing** - Birmingham
- **The Loft** - Birmingham
- **The Yard** - Coventry

Best Midlands Pride Event

Top 5 Finalists:

- **Birmingham Pride**
- **Coventry Pride**
- **Leicester Pride**
- **Stoke-On-Trent Pride**
- **Walsall Pride**

Best LGBT Charity or Group of Achievement

Top 5 Finalists.

- **Birmingham LGBT (Umbrella)**
- **Finding A Voice**
- **Prism - Coventry**
- **Positive West Midlands**
- **Terrence Higgins Trust**

Best Midlands Health Club / Sauna

Top 5 Finalists

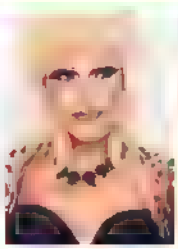
- **Club 29** - Leicester
- **The Greenhouse** - Darlaston
- **Heroes** - Stourbridge
- **Splash** - Leicester
- **Spartan** - Birmingham

Best Security Person

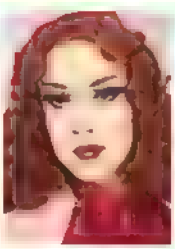
Top 5 Finalists

- **Carl Cino** - Gossip
- **Joanne Tranter** - Bar Diva
- **Kimberley Jones** - The Village
- **Janine Webb** - The Yard
- **Levi Russell** - The Yard

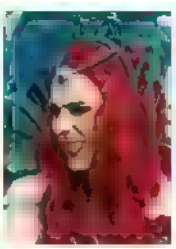
Best Midlands Cabaret Newcomer - Top 7 Finalists



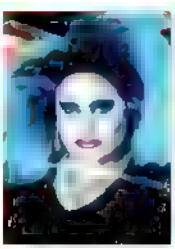
Blanche



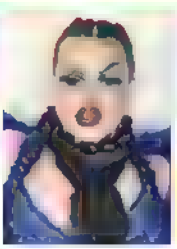
Dahliah Rivers



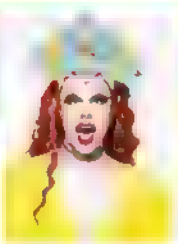
Dominus Von Vexo



Jelly Cube



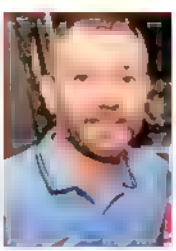
Mama Mamba



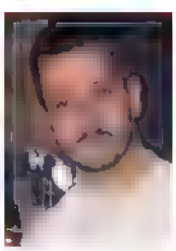
Poppycock

The Saturnos

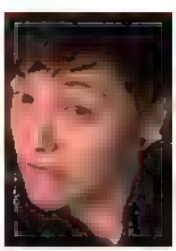
Best Front of House Team - Top 7 Finalists



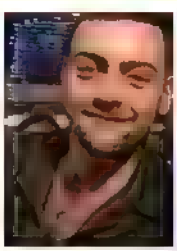
Garry Prentice - Eden



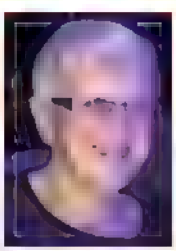
Jon Ingram - The Loft



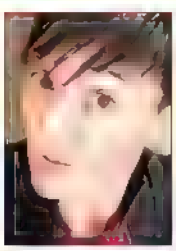
Kayleigh Taffe - The Loft



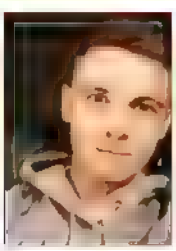
Mikey Elston Village Inn



Maura Walsh - Eden



Sian Gourlay The Yard



Stephen Lambert Missing

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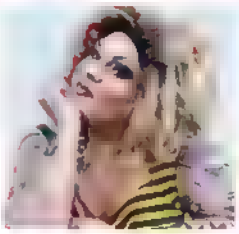
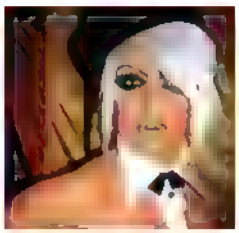
Scene Personality of the Year



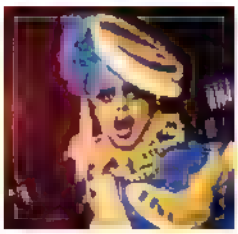
Amy Laqueefa

Miss Penny

Garry Prentice



Marty Smith



Queeny

Best Compere/Host in the Midlands

Amy Laqueefa
- Missing Bar /The Fox

Blanche
- The Village Inn

Rockella
- The Yard, Coventry

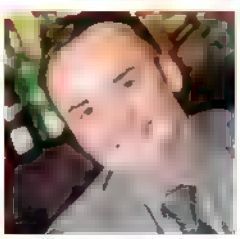
Twiggy
- Missing Bar

Yshee Black
- The Village Inn

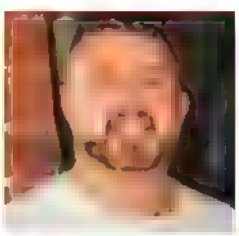
Midlands Hero of the Year

Andrew Moffatt
- No Outsiders

Scott Gethings
- The Circle



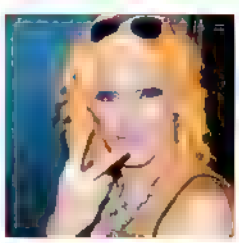
Lawrence Barton
- Birmingham Pride



Cal Licata
- Eden/Save The Gay Village

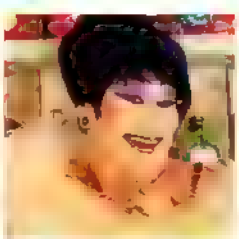
Richard Easter
- The Yard, Coventry

Midlands Villian of the Year



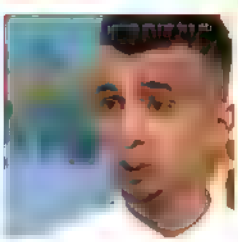
Blanche
- The Village Inn

Lady Gooch
- Gooch Estates



Rockella
- The Yard, Coventry

Roger Godsiff
- Former Labour MP



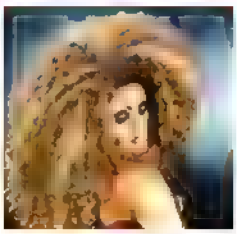
Shakeel Afsar
- LGBT Schools Protester

Best Cabaret Act in the Midlands

Ginny Lemon

Miss Penny

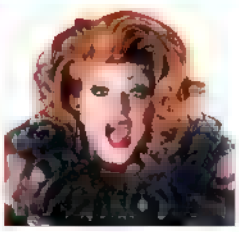
Amy Laqueefa



Marty Smith

Trixie Lee

Best National Cabaret Act



Miss Penny

Mary Mac

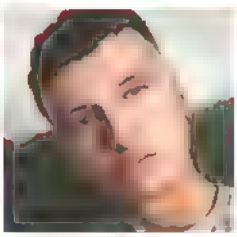
Sandra London

The Vivienne

Baga Chipz

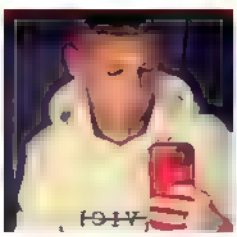
Best Midlands Bar DJ

Simon Baker
- The Yard & Eden



Scott Hilton
- The Village Inn

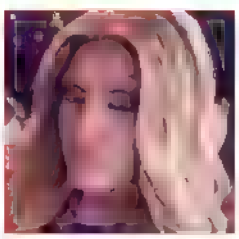
Mike Emery
- Missing



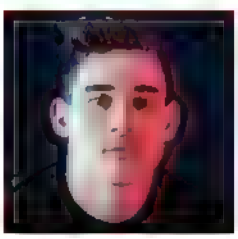
Richard Moon
- The Village Inn

Poni
- Eden Bar

Best Midlands Club DJ



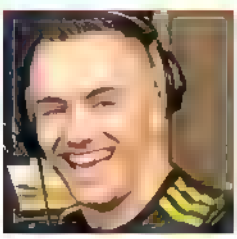
Destiny Dyson
- Gossip in Stoke



Robbie Lewis
Nightingale/ Helsinki

Corey Hadley
- Nightingale/ Underground

James Silver
- Club Chic



James Levett
- Gorgeous Nightclub

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Amigos Leisure

Day: Thursdays
Time: 2 - 5pm (last appointment 4.45pm)
Place: 30 Bedford Street South, LE1 3JR

TRADE

Day: Fridays
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You can also check out Trade Sexual Health:
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We are FAMILY!

ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

How one woman's acceptance of her son's sexuality led to her playing a much bigger part in the community...

One of the most disturbing stories to emerge at the end of last year was the news of a study which revealed that more than a quarter of UK adults would be ashamed to have an LGBT child, and that less than half would feel proud to have an LGBT son or daughter. The online poll of 2,109 people also revealed that one in 10 would not want their child to bring home a same-sex partner.

Those of us who have come out share very different stories of parental acceptance - or in too many cases non-acceptance. At one end of the spectrum, one of my friend's very understanding mother sat him down and asked if he thought he might be gay. My own experience was much higher drama, with my mother throwing up in the sink having read a letter from my first boyfriend.

Meanwhile, back in 2011 in Oklahoma, another mother, Sara Cunningham, was also struggling to come to terms with the news that her youngest child was gay. It took years for her to accept it, but eventually she began to stand up to her conservative Baptist church's stance that being gay is sinful.

In her book, How We Sleep At Night, Cunningham talks about spending years trying to 'pray the gay away' and feeling like she had to choose between her son and her faith.

"SADLY WE DON'T ALL RECEIVE THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE THAT WE NEED AND DESERVE"

In a development that went viral on social media, she not only chose her son but embraced the LGBT community big time. Such was her sadness upon learning of a same-sex couple whose parents refused to attend their wedding, she wrote a post on Facebook offering to 'stand in' as a mother at LGBT weddings.

"If you need a mom to attend your same-sex wedding because your biological mom won't," she wrote, "call me. I'm there. I'll be your biggest fan. I'll even bring the bubbles."

People took her up on her offer. Cunningham stood in at her first wedding in 2018 and attended three other gay weddings in 2019. She's also officiated at the weddings of nearly a dozen same-sex couples in Oklahoma, Mississippi and Texas, and become an ordained minister at her local courthouse so that she can perform weddings.

Cunningham's Facebook post and book caught the eye of film star Jamie Lee Curtis, who bought the movie rights to the memoir. The film is reportedly in development.

Fortunately I didn't need to fly Cunningham over from Oklahoma to our wedding, as my own mum attended. Thirty-odd years after meltdown, she was a glowing and proud parent. But I'm one of the lucky ones. Sadly we don't all receive the unconditional love that we need and deserve.

LET'S TALK:

The Lacey Lou Column

Message Lacey on Twitter

Let's talk...

Dating dos and don'ts...

...as trialled by Lacey Lou

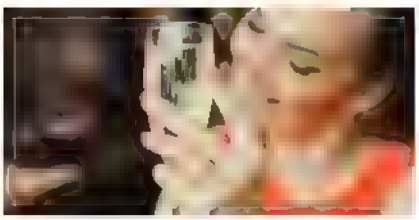
It's February, the month of romance and beautiful gestures of love. Aw!... After coming out of a long-term relationship last year, I finally felt ready to venture into the wide and wonderful world of dating - and boy, it did not disappoint!

For the past few months, I've been balls-deep (quite literally) in the dating experience and have learnt a lot. So here are some dos and don'ts that I've picked up along the way. Join me on the embarrassing journey that is my dating life...

1 **Don't buy new outfits for a date.** You've just wasted £50 on that cute ensemble (twice) and they didn't turn up (twice). You loser.

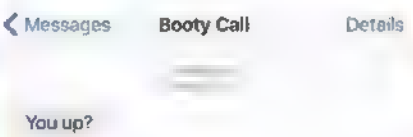
2 **Talking to someone does not equate to them liking you.** No, they don't love you, hon. They're talking to various other trade and just want to bang.

3 **Don't leave all your belongings in a venue and go home with someone.** You will be trapped in their house in last night's questionable outfit and have to engage with them the morning after.



4 **Prosecco is the devil.** Multiple bottles are not a good idea, and it will never be a 'quiet one'. You're now messy drunk and making out with a 4/10.

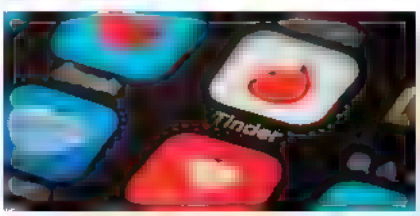
5 **If they like you, they will let you know.** Don't beg it, bab, ya desperate bitch. You're better than a shitty "where are you?" message at twat o'clock in the morning. Actually... are you?



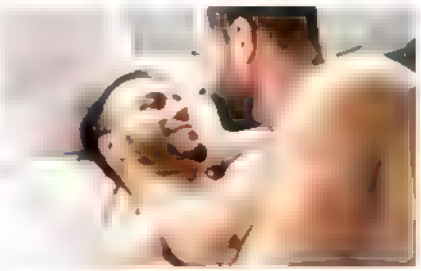
6 **Don't feel shame or guilt for non-attachment sex.** It's fab and you deserve it. You also deserve to be a pillow princess and lie there. It's been a hard year, okay - you relax.

7 **Don't edit or modify yourself for someone to like you.** You're a superstar.

8 **Dating apps are full of fakes and fuck boys.** Delete them now or risk an even lower self-esteem sis.



9 When leaving someone's house after a night of hanky panky, **don't thank them for having you over for said one-night stand.** Silly, polite British-ness, godammit.



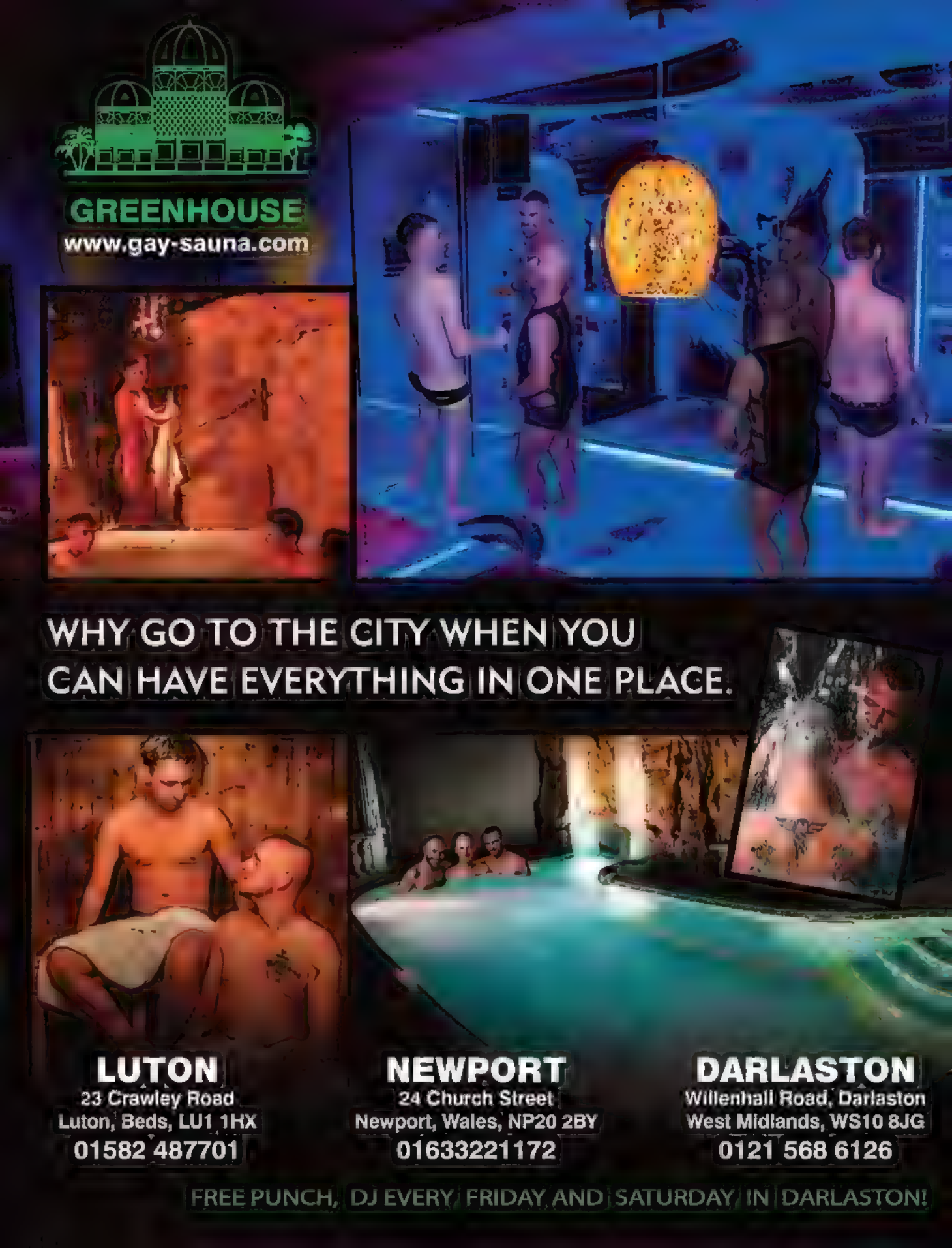
10 **Don't reveal too much about yourself.** Over-sharing isn't sexy, so keep parts of yourself just for you. No one wants an orgasm with a side order of trauma. Checking your messages every minute won't in fact make their message come through any quicker.

11 **Men are trash.** Shag a woman... they give you coffee and respect the morning after.

Lots of love,

Lacey X

Tweet Lacey the chat @laceymcfadyen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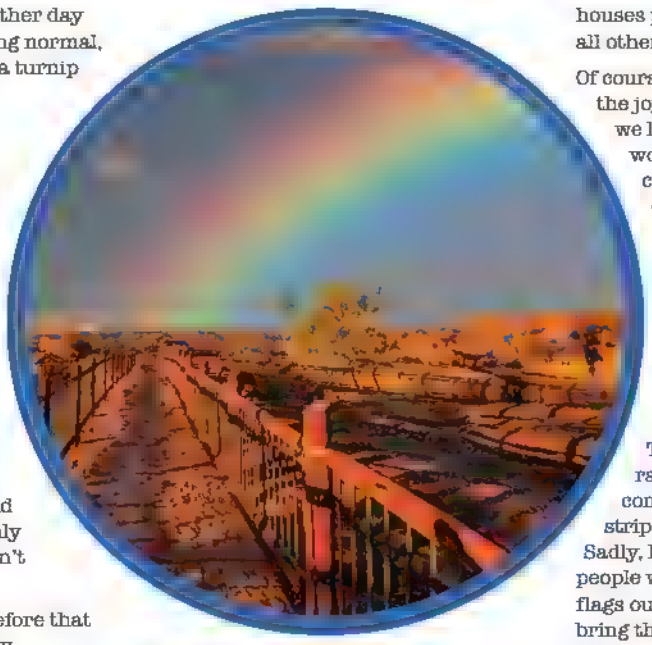
Paint the whole world with a RAINBOW

There's more to having a rainbow as a symbol of inclusivity than meets the eye

I was talking to someone the other day who, while outwardly appearing normal, turned out to be something of a turnip He was describing a spiritual experience (to be honest, I personally feel it was more meteorological than spiritual, but hey ho) in which a rainbow appeared after a period of rain and heralded a time of dry weather. "Of course," he then declared with sadness, "our homosexual friends have now taken the rainbow as their own". The way in which he said 'homosexual friends' made it very clear that he would be horrified to find that any of his friends were gay, and also that, quite possibly, his only friend was his mother He wasn't pleased to hear this.



It had never occurred to me before that people might think that the gay community had somehow sullied rainbows. There are few things in this world that are genuinely experienced by all people in a very similar way Rainbows are a thing of beauty and wonder, and the vast majority of us look at them in awe before getting on with the rest of our lives. Okay, some people think they're made by an omnipotent being, others understand all sorts of stuff about light and refraction, arcs and water droplets, but fundamentally we all just think they're lovely and that we are somehow privileged to catch a glimpse of one. Even better if you get a photo to post on Instagram.

Spiritual people, people who believe in peace, people who like British rock music of the 1970s, leprechauns and people who think it takes all sorts to make up the world have long enjoyed the rainbow as a symbol of their love. The gay community has worked under the rainbow logo since the 1970s, as it's a beautiful symbol of togetherness, love and peace. The fact that George, Zippy and Bungle got involved was, of course, an unexpected bonus. Incidentally, trying to write this article is tricky, as the Rainbow theme tune is persistently and loudly up above the streets and houses playing in my head, pushing out all other climbing high words...

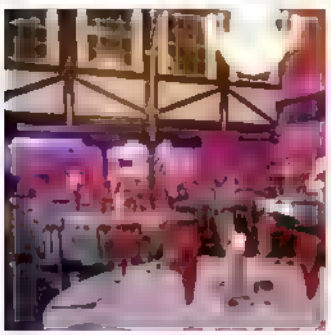
Of course, school did try to take some of the joy out of the rainbow by insisting we learnt the colour order using the worst possible mnemonics they could think of - Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain. Could there be anything more boring with which to describe something so ethereal? I am ashamed of myself that I can still remember something so dull. Randy Orangutan Yesterday Gave Blowjob In Vienna. Better?

The first flag designed around the rainbow theme for the gay community included a hot pink stripe as well as traditional indigo. Sadly, hot pink proved impractical, as people were primarily making rainbow flags out of old t-shirts and nobody could bring themselves to take scissors to their hot pink ones. Or so mythology would have us believe. But fundamentally the rainbow flag works because it is so immediately recognisable and simple - and has changed so little throughout its history

The idea that gay people have 'taken' the rainbow is an odd one It doesn't even feel like the rainbow is there for the taking, given that it's so universal and so universally experienced as a positive thing. And it's as a positive thing that the gay community use it too. As a positive thing and, just as importantly, as a symbol of inclusivity.

> "IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME BEFORE THAT PEOPLE MIGHT THINK THE GAY COMMUNITY HAD SULLIED RAINBOWS"

The unique place to hold your LGBTQ+ wedding



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LGBT HISTORY MONTH
AROUND BIRMINGHAM AND THE MIDLANDS

Celebrating the history of the gay and civil rights movements, LGBT History Month first took place in February 2005, to mark the abolition of Section 28 of the 1988 Local Government Act. The event has been held every February since. Check out some of the region's History Month highlights below...

Birmingham LGBT+ History Festival

LGBT History Festival returns from Thursday 20 to Sunday 23 February, taking place at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and the Nightingale Club. Taking the title Looking Back Moving Forward, the event focuses on the history of LGBTQ+ activism and contemplates the lessons which can be learned from the past in order to inform the future

Highlights include four days of workshops, seminars curated by Michele Aaron, from Screening Rights Film Festival, and Jose Arroyo, film lecturer at the University of Warwick, and film screenings in partnership with LGBTQ+ community groups. Outing The Past also returns, featuring a selection of curated talks and performances.

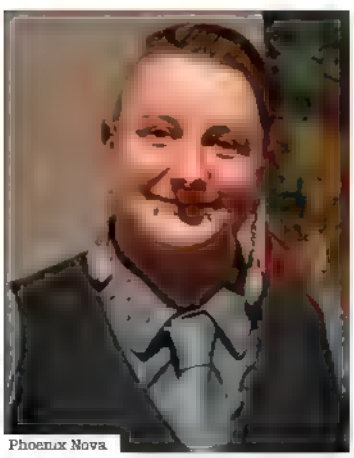
For more information and full listings, visit blgbt.org/events

Velvet Goldmine will be screened with a panel discussion from Brum Bi Group

[illegible]

Worcester Arts Workshop is celebrating LGBT+ History Month by hosting a number of events, including a visual arts exhibition by Worcester-based Trans Non-Binary artist Phoenix Nova. Entitled Reflections, the display is available to view from Monday 3 February

For more information, visit worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk



Phoenix Nova

Clare Summerskill

[illegible]

LGBT+ History Festival takes place at numerous venues around Shropshire for a fifth year

Highlights include: a wildlife photography exhibition by founder member of London's Gay's The Word bookshop, Jonathan Cutbill; a screening of the 2019 documentary, Are You Proud?; and an appearance by gay stand up comedian Clare Summerskill.

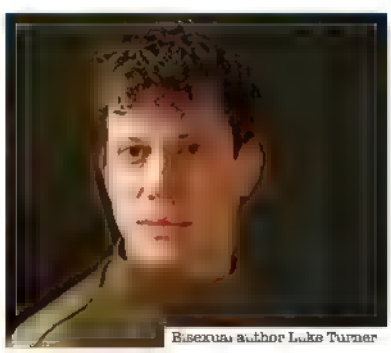
An LGBT+ Anthems singing workshop and an interactive clowning & comedy workshop also feature in the festival's programme.

For more information and full listings, visit www.shrewsburylgbthistory.org.uk

Hub programme at Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust

Queer history is explored via a programme of literary-themed events at The Shakespeare Centre in Stratford upon-Avon on Wednesday 12 February. Presentations include: Jane Traies' Bloomsbury's Hidden Neighbours - A Lesbian Love Triangle?, Luke Turner & Paul Edmondson's The Bisexual Voices Of Shakespeare's Sonnets, and Jessica Heath's Creating The Queer Archive, which looks at the relationship between archives and queer history...

For more information and full listings, visit shakespeare.org.uk



Bisexual author Luke Turner

Get free condoms and lube in Stoke-on-Trent with a C-Card!

lgbtstoke.co.uk/sexual-health

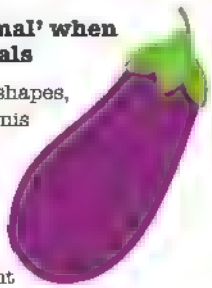
Gaylife Stoke

@GaylifeStoke

LOVE YOURSELF AND YOUR BODY!

It's Valentine's Day this month and love is in the air - but the team at Gaylife Stoke want to make sure you feel love for *yourself and your body* as well as for your romantic partner.
Gaylife Stoke is part of the sexual health service in Stoke-on-Trent. Along with providing LGBT+ support services, one of its jobs is to educate people about sex, relationships and body image.
Take a look at the organisation's top tips for learning to love yourself and your body...

There is no 'normal' when it comes to genitals



Genitals come in all shapes, sizes and colours. Penis angles vary from person to person. Some people have more foreskin than others. Labia size and colour is different for everyone.
Got one ball hanging lower than the other? That's actually common! Everyone is different and that's great, because life would be boring if we were all the same as one another
People often get hung up about their genitals when they've been watching porn - but bear in mind that porn actors are hired specifically for their looks. In just the same way that you shouldn't compare your body to a runway model, don't compare your genitals (or boobs, for that matter) to a porn star's.
It's important to keep an eye out for any changes in the appearance of your genitals, such as any new lumps, bumps, blisters or sores. This could mean you have a sexually transmitted infection (STI) or another type of infection or condition. If you do notice any changes, visit your GP or nearest sexual health clinic.

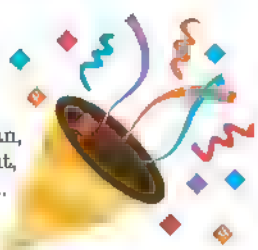
Stop comparing yourself to others

It's so easy in today's age of social media to feel envious of what other people have, whether it be a ripped body, expensive car or busy social life. But social media doesn't provide an accurate representation of who people are. It's an Instagram influencer's job to look a certain way - that's what they get paid for - meaning they may well have spent hours getting that one great photo for their feed. Not many people post a true reflection of their lives on social media - try to remember that fact if ever you should find yourself feeling down. It's a good idea to take a break from the online world and do something fun in the real world, like trying a new hobby, meeting up with friends or even relaxing by yourself with a good book.

Love somebody else... Love yourself!

No, we're not talking about sex here. Even though this is an article about loving yourself, being kind to others can help you be kind to yourself. If you're positive about other people's looks and bodies, it will help you to be more positive about your own. Lead by example; being kind to or about someone else will give you more faith in the kindness of others

Learn what feels good for you



Flicking the bean, cracking one out, having a wank... Whatever you call it, masturbation is a great way to get to know your body and learn what feels good. You can use your hands or toys (make sure you clean them properly!) along with some lube to make things feel great. Don't use anything that's not designed for use as a sex toy, as you could hurt yourself or get something stuck inside you. For example, if it doesn't have a flared base, don't use it for anal play
Having an orgasm releases endorphins, which make you feel good, and masturbation is one sexual act from which you can't get an STI, so put some time aside and have some solo fun.

Know your worth

Unhealthy relationships can be hard to spot, whether it's with a friend, family member or partner. If you don't feel like you can be yourself around someone, you're worried about how they might react if you disagree with them, or you're miserable more often than you're happy, your relationship may well be an unhealthy one. There are many local support services available which can help with unhealthy relationships. In Stoke-on Trent, it's an organisation called Glow.
If someone isn't making you happy, it may be time to move on. Whatever you decide to do, it's important to know your worth and remember that everybody deserves to be happy - including you!

For more information on Gaylife's LGBT+ services in Stoke-on-Trent, visit www.lgbtstoke.co.uk

KINKY BOOTS WALKING FROM STAGE TO SCREEN

Check out the West End show in a cinema near you!

The critically acclaimed Kinky Boots The Musical struts its way into more than 600 cinemas across the UK this month.

If you've never before seen the award winning production either in London's West End or when the show's been touring to the Midlands - then be sure to get yourself along to one of the screenings on Tuesday 4 or Sunday 9 February.

The stage production was filmed Live for the cinema at the Adelphi Theatre, London in November 2018. With songs from Grammy and Tony Award winning pop icon Cyndi Lauper the show stars original West End leads Killian Donnelly and Birmingham born Matt Henry.

Cinema tickets are on sale now. For more information and to book your seat, visit **KinkyBootsCinema.com**

WIN! with Midlands Zone...

2 tickets to see Everybody's Talking About Jamie!

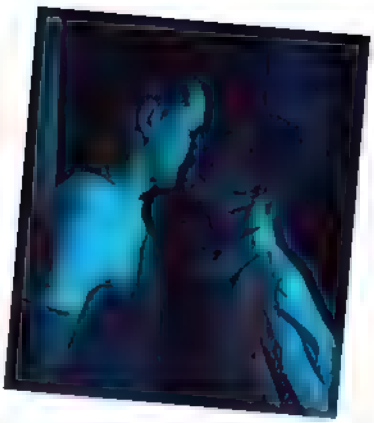
Now here's a competition you really need to enter! We're giving away two pairs of tickets to see Everybody's Talking About Jamie at The Alexandra, Birmingham, on Monday 16 March.

Heading out on its first ever UK tour, the smash hit musical features West End star Layton Williams and EastEnders' favourite Shane Richie.

Enter the competition via our Facebook page at @midlandszone

MGM
BIRMINGHAM MATURE GAY MEN
MGM - Midlands.org.uk
mgmbham@gmail.com
Call Tom for details - 07899 335677
The Fox, Lower Essex Street, Birmingham, B5 6SN

A SLICE OF '80S GAY LIFE



The award-winning My Night With Reg - a dark LGBT comedy by the late Birmingham-born Kevin Elyot which follows a group of gay men living through decadent yet frightening times in 1980s London - is being revived by 'creators of quality queer theatre' Green Carnation Company.

Midlands Zone caught up with co-artistic director Dan Jarvis to find out more...

"I think it's a generational responsibility to keep LGBTQ+ history alive," says Dan Jarvis, co-artistic director of Green Carnation Company, the ensemble behind a new touring production of My Night With Reg. "The treatment and diagnosis of HIV and AIDS is obviously a world apart from what it was in the '80s. Back then it was a death sentence; in most cases now, those who are HIV positive live very long, healthy, happy lives, with no fear of passing the virus on to anyone else.

"One of the big things we wanted to show in My Night With Reg is that life didn't just stop during the AIDS crisis. What made Dan Ellis - our other co-artistic director - and I fall in love with the play was that the characters' everyday lives and interactions with one another felt so accurate in terms of how a group of gay friends would be. We saw ourselves in it and were able to compare each character to one of our friends - it's so representational. It's also so important to show friendships, love and happiness, particularly in that 1980s context.

"The '80s really is synonymous with AIDS for the LGBTQ+ community. Homosexuality had only been legalised in the late 1960s, so for LGBTQ+ people in the 1980s, the sense of freedom was still relatively new. And then this cataclysmic disaster tore through the world. So, My Night With Reg starts out when AIDS is just emerging - it's more of a rumour. But then, of course, as you go through the decade, the impact is felt more and more by the characters. It's absolutely a play in which the characters are affected by AIDS - and yet it's never overtly mentioned. It's referred to when the characters talk about having to check their bodies for symptoms, it's in the 'you've got to be careful' messages the characters send to each other, and you know instantly what they're talking about without it ever being mentioned. But that's all done with wit, humour, warmth and a sense of their friendship, which is the joy of Kevin Elyot's writing.

"Elyot's writing is incredibly realistic - like a fly on the wall, listening in to other people's lives. It's also incredibly funny, but not in a sitcom, slapstick sort of way. The characters themselves are very witty and very dry. Reading or watching the play, you feel like you really know these men intimately. Elyot takes a really political period of time and helps us understand it through the lens of real people's lives. In the rehearsal room, we quite often compare him to Russell T Davies, who wrote Queer As Folk, of course."

So what varieties of out-and-proud gay men can we expect to meet in My Night With Reg?

"There are six characters in the play, and they're all connected to this really mysterious, magnetic figure called Reg. In a similar way to Abigail's Party, Reg is talked about but never seen so is this invisible seventh character. The entire play is set in the flat of one character called Guy and takes place over the space of five years. Guy (Simon Hallman) is in his 40s, having a bit of a midlife crisis and is a little shy, but at the same time he's very much the anchor of the play. Two of the others are his long-term university friends, John (Nicholas Anscombe) and Daniel (David Gregan-Jones). John is very privileged and it's no secret, or spoiler, that Guy very much holds a torch for him. Daniel is the international jet-setter, the camp and outrageous joker of the pack - just a complete whirlwind of energy. There's also long term couple Benny (Steve Connolly) and Bernie (Marc Geoffrey), who are a bit of a double act. Benny has a bit of a wandering eye, while Bernie very much wants to enjoy a more domestic life with Benny, so there's a bit of a comedy of errors there. Then, completing the group is Eric (Alan Lewis). He's the youngest character, starting off aged just 18. In the opening scene he's simply a decorator in Guy's new flat. However, he ends up befriending the group, and even though he's the youngest, he very much ends up guiding the rest of them through quite a difficult time. Eric is kind of like a guiding voice holding the friendship group together."

A desire to improve the level of LGBTQ+ representation on regional stages is one of the main reasons Dan Jarvis and Dan Ellis founded Green Carnation Company.

"When I was growing up, I loved going to the theatre, but I just never saw my own identity and experiences reflected on the stage. I think that's the case for people from many minority backgrounds, not just the LGBTQ+ community. I think we've come a long way, but I think there's still too much of a London-centric focus on LGBTQ+ work. Green Carnation Company started out because my co-director, Dan, wanted to put on a gay play called The Pride, which ended up being our first production. Originally, Cheshire was our intended area, but without naming the city, we were told that a play with that content was too risque for audiences around there, which we just don't believe at all! We've since created our queer theatre identity in Manchester. After we did The Pride, we wanted to take our ideas further and into more regional theatres, so then our current touring model came along with My Night With Reg."

I'm absolutely thrilled to be returning to Warwick for the first time since graduating and especially with a show as important as My Night With Reg. Equal parts witty and moving, it's a beautiful exploration into perhaps the most pivotal period of LGBTQ+ history, and whilst the action takes place across the 1980s, the play's assessment of love, sex, and friendship couldn't be more applicable to the world we live in today'

Alan Lewis (actor) who is a Uni of Warks graduate

Dan believes that while there have been numerous breakthroughs inside and outside the arts sector, there are still those who are raining on our pride parade...

"If you look at recent breakthroughs in the military and with LGBTQ+ representation on stage, screen and in other art forms, then we really have come a long way. However, it's not all good news... there's been a huge rise in the number of homophobic attacks taking place across the country, there are concerns about the availability and accessibility of HIV prevention medication PrEP, even though it's been proven effective, and there's increased trolling of members of the LGBTQ+ community on social media. So for all the steps forward, there are still massive divisions and things that need addressing - another reason why queer stories are so important in theatre and the wider arts."

Social stigma surrounding HIV is also still rife, says Dan: "Yes, medically we've absolutely come on in leaps and bounds, but there's still a huge amount of shame around being HIV positive. The guilt that goes with it, especially with friends and family, is enormous for so many. An artist we really love and speak to quite a lot is Nathaniel Hall. He's been touring a one-man show entitled First Time that really gets into the whole social stigma issue surrounding the virus and tackles people's misconceptions. But the social stigma is exactly why plays like My Night With Reg are so important because, in the UK at least, wider understanding of HIV remains the biggest barrier."

The cast and creatives of My Night With Reg have been working hard to break down barriers and talk to those affected by HIV about their experiences.

"We've worked with George House Trust in Manchester, partly to educate ourselves on the differences between living with HIV in the '80s and now. We also did a workshop with the Trust's service users, where we shared bits of script with them and asked for feedback. They then shared their own stories with our actors. We will also have a front-of house team on the tour, for anyone to approach if their lives have been affected by HIV in any way.

"In the printed programme for the show, we feature articles from George House Trust and list recommendations for other HIV support charities in the vicinity of the venues that we're visiting. We're hoping to produce a short film for digital release as well, in which our cast speak to George House Trust."

Despite its sometimes heavy subject matter, My Night With Reg makes for an enjoyable and entertaining theatrical experience.

"Whether you identify as LGBTQ+ or not, My Night With Reg is a gorgeous evening spent watching a group of friends navigating a really hard time but ultimately having their love shine through. And it's beautifully acted by six incredible performers. Plus, the play itself is going to be a visual feast, with lots of neon and other characteristically '80s styles much in evidence. You're certain of a wonderful night of drama!"

My Night With Reg shows at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, from Thursday 12 March to Saturday 14 March.

What's On

German pop singer Kim Petras heads to the Midlands this month as part of her biggest UK tour to date
The transgender star released her debut album, Clarity, last summer to widespread critical acclaim. Singles released from the album include Sweet Spot, All I Do Is Cry, Icy and Do Me
An independent artist championed by Spotify, Petras has since gone on to collaborate with international pop princess Charli XCX, as well as with SOPHIE

O2 Academy2, Birmingham, Friday 7 February

In PurSUEt

Substance misuse and celebrity stalking are the name of the game in Eleanor Higgins' short-but-satisfying production, which picked up plenty of plaudits at last year's Edinburgh Fringe.
Described as an LGBT 'Fleabag meets Miranda', the play features Higgins in the role of 'Woman', a self proclaimed "really hot lesbian" who's initially in denial about her alcoholism. Instead, she rationalises that life would be so very much better if only she could date her idol, television's Sue Perkins.
But one brief glimpse of her heroine in a bookshop and one daring foray backstage at a TV studio later, Woman starts to realise that maybe the source of her trouble isn't her undeclared love for an already-partnered television star but rather the potent liquid sitting at the bottom of her glass...

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham,
Monday 10 - Saturday 15 February

Yours Sincerely

Storytelling & lipsync cabaret collide in this queer coming of age comedy from a Birmingham based theatre company. Quick Duck Theatre's Yours Sincerely takes a look at the complications of 21st-century communication.
The year is 2017. Average graduate debt has hit £50,000, Kylie Minogue is making a comeback and Will Jackson has accidentally stolen 300 second class stamps from the post office. But he's making them count. He's going to write letters. From reconnecting with old friends and ex-boyfriends to run ins with the marketing department at John Lewis, stamp collecting has never looked so sexy...

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Saturday 15 February
The Hive, Shrewsbury, Saturday 22 February

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TOWN HALL BIRMINGHAM
SYMPHONY HALL BIRMINGHAM

REBECCA FERGUSON
TUE 25 FEBRUARY
7:30PM
TOWN HALL

THE BOYS ARE BACK! 5IVE /A1/ DAMAGE /911
TUE 25 FEBRUARY
8PM
SYMPHONY HALL

MAX RAABE & PALAST ORCHESTER
THU 5 MARCH
7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL

GOLDFRAPP
TUE 31 MARCH
7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL

TRIXIE MATTEL: GROWN UP
TUE 19 MAY
8PM
SYMPHONY HALL

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Funded by
Birmingham City Council
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
Town Hall renovation also funded by
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OTHER WORLDS

SATURDAY 28 MARCH, 3pm
St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter

Leave reality behind and travel to a new world, across the oceans and into the underworld at Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra's spring concert

NEW WORLD SYMPHONY
Symphony No. 9 - Antonín Dvořák

SEA PICTURES
Sir Edward Elgar

OVERTURE TO "THE MARKSMAN"
Der Freischutz - Carl Maria von Weber

Sasha Velour: Smoke & Mirrors

Sasha Velour's first one-queen show is an effortless blend of drag, visual art and magic. Through 13 dazzling and genre-busting lip-synch performances, all choreographed and directed by the queen herself, fans get to discover a whole new side of the Drag Race winner's artistry
Expect to be on the edge of your seat as she explodes into rose petals, vanishes in a puff of smoke, saws herself in half, conjures a rainstorm and even transforms into a tree in front of your very eyes.

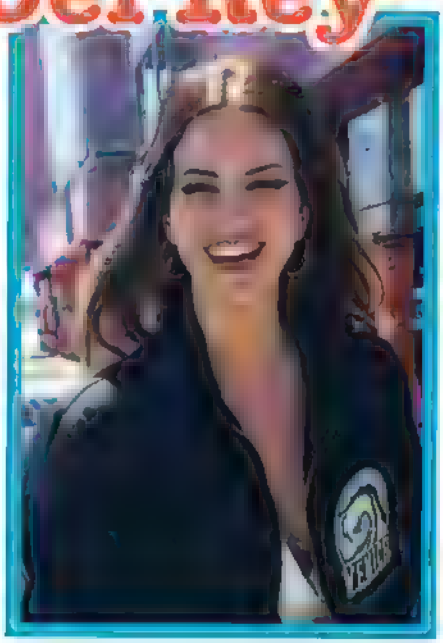
Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Monday 2 March

Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Bill Kenwright's widely praised production of Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's sparkling family musical comes to Wolverhampton with Britain's Got Talent finalist Mark McMullan taking the lead. Retelling the Biblical story of Joseph, his eleven brothers and the coat of many colours, this magical musical is jam-packed with unforgettable songs, including Go, Go, Go Joseph, Any Dream Will Do, Jacob And Sons and Close Every Door To Me

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tuesday 25 - Saturday 29 February

Lana Del Rey



New York born Elizabeth Woolridge Grant, more commonly known as Lana Del Rey, last year released her sixth studio album, Norman F*cking Rockwell, to widespread acclaim. The record picked up two Grammy nominations and reached number one in the UK album charts.
Fusing tragic romance with glamour and in the process referencing plenty of pop culture, particularly 1950s and '60s Americana - Rey's previous offerings include Born To Die, Ultraviolence and Lust For Life, all of which also topped the charts.

Resorts World Arena, Birmingham, Saturday 29 February

Sarah Keyworth

Sarah Keyworth's original premise for her new show, Pacific, was that she was turning into her dad. But then things moved on a bit. "It ended up being about how I, as a woman who likes to perceive herself as being slightly masculine, almost resents the feminine parts of herself. It's about learning that I don't have to be the biggest, strongest woman in the room. It's like learning how to become a modern man."
Sarah is in a relationship with fellow comic Catherine Bohart. "In a misogynistic way, I like the idea of looking after my girlfriend," she says, "but in reality, if my girlfriend left me for long, I'd starve!"

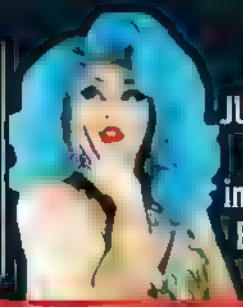
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Saturday 22 February

10 YEARS AGO

A look back at Midlands Zone from February 2010

Birmingham club appoints new Head of Commerce
The old bosses at The Nightingale take over troubled Angels Cafe Bar and spend a fortune on it whilst also announcing a new head of commerce Lee Aldred
A delighted new boss David Dindol appoints Lee Pitchford as manager of Missing
News
Gay club buys Angels and is set to spend up to £300k
Here are the Top Finalists in the coveted Midlands Zone Readers' Awards way back in 2010
It's time to vote for your winners
Top 5 Finalists 2010
Former Birmingham gay bar manager pleads guilty to stealing from venue
Kirk Stephens bar manager of Route 2 pleads guilty to stealing from the venue which also announced its permanent closure the same month!

Red, Amber, Green! TRAFFIC LIGHT PARTY at Missing



JADE JUSTINE struts into The Boston

MISS THUNDERPUSSY set to storm Bar Diva in Dudley

DICK N DOM spin the decks at The Yard

SCENE

Your guide to the month ahead on the GAY SCENE

SATURDAY 29 FEBRUARY

Birmingham's Gay Village venues go...

Back To The 80's

including

The Numan League

What's On

AROUND THE MIDLANDS GAY SCENE

Wilma Fingadoo

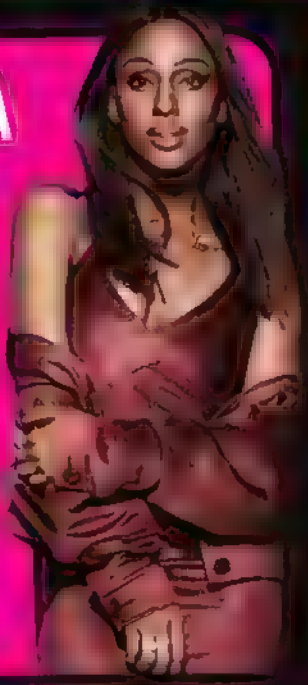
Sat 15 February
The Boston
Northampton

ALEXANDRA BURKE

HEADLINES NEW YEAR'S EVE RE-RUN IN BRUM

The Nightingale's legendary New Year's Eve fancy dress event features a live performance by Alexandra Burke. It's definitely not to be missed.

Saturday 1 February
Nightingale Club,
Birmingham



KY KELLY

Pop down to The Yard this Valentine's Day to enjoy a Friday night extravaganza in the company of the ever-fabulous KY Kelly, live on stage!

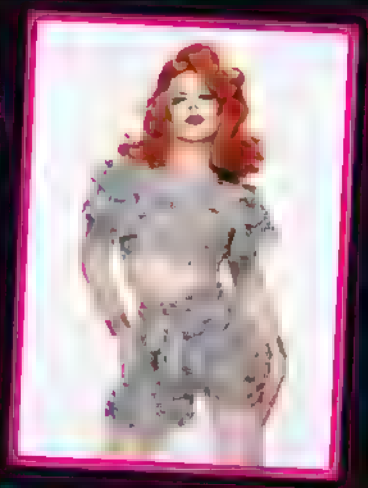
Friday 14 February
The Yard, Coventry

Poppy Cock

Singing, dancing, cackling - this London-based drag queen really does do the lot! Poppy will be *popping* into two Midlands venues this month!

Monday 3 Feb,
Havana Republic,
Shrewsbury

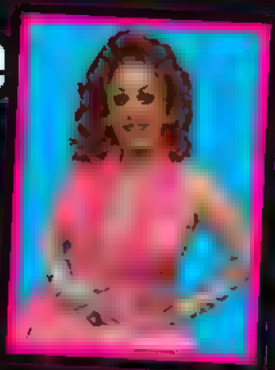
Sat 8 February,
Eden Bar, Birmingham

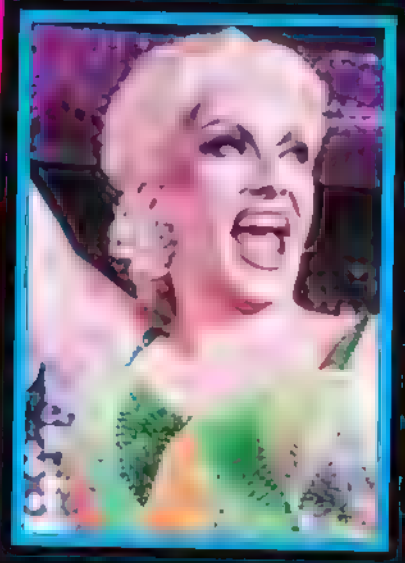


Lola Lasagne

Now January's over, so is the diet! So why not grab yourself some extra carbs with a slice of Lola Lasagne? The Brighton Belle will be delighting the Northampton crowds this month.

Sat 8 February
The Boston, Northampton

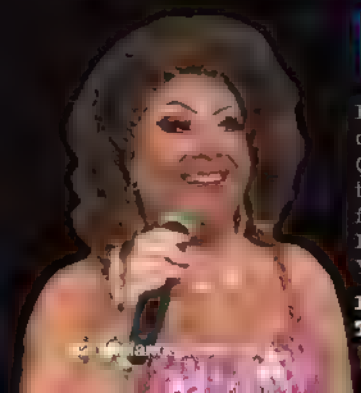




Ava Cardo

Expect parodies, standup, musical theatre and plenty more besides when this queen of comedy dazzles and delights The Village crowds this month.

Fri 7 February
Village Inn,
Birmingham



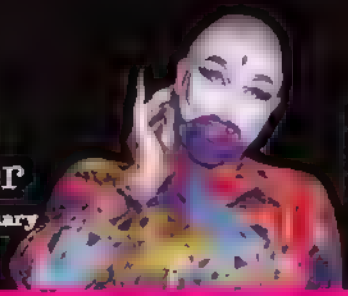
Fannie Coil

Here's yet another night of top-quality cabaret to enjoy at Coventry gay venue The Yard, this time presented by the fantastic Fannie Coil! If you haven't checked out The Yard yet, why not pop along?

Friday 7 February
The Yard, Coventry

Miss Amber

Sat 1 February
Bar Diva
Dudley



Danny Beard

Sat 1 February
Eden Bar
Birmingham

Mary Golds

7 February
Republic
Shrewsbury

Blind Date with Ginny Lemon

"What's your name and where d'ya come from, chuck?" Surprise, surprise, it's Ginny Lemon as the legendary Cilla Black! With her outlandish style and crazy performances, you can always count on a fun night out when Ginny's about (hey, that rhymes!)!

Fri 14 February
Village Inn, Birmingham

Valentine's Traffic Light Party

Red, amber or green - this is one party at which you'll want to be seen! Missing Bar's fabulous Traffic Light party features the wonderful Amy LaQueefa. Now where's our green shirt?

Fri 14 - Sun 16 February
Missing Bar, Birmingham

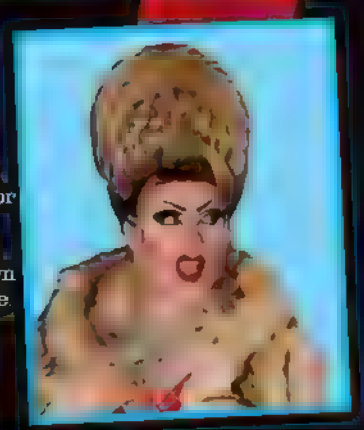
Tina Sparkle

Get some glamour into your life when 'Welsh lovely' Tina Sparkle stops off in the Midlands region this month. Expect a hilarious night out!

Sat 1 February
The Boston
Northampton

Sat 15 February
Bar Diva, Dudley

Brenda LaBeau



Drag Idol UK 2016 finalist Brenda LaBeau is known for her incredible live vocals. The scouse songstress will surely bring the house down when she takes to the stage at Eden Bar this month.

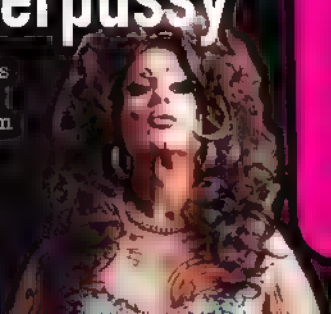
Saturday 22 February,
Eden Bar, Birmingham

Anti-Valentine's Party

Ugh! If you're sick of cheesy Instagram declarations of love or naff cards in the shops, why not join the gang at the Nightingale for their Bring Your BFF Weekender - the ultimate anti-Valentine's party! Who needs all that slushy sickly lovey-dovey nonsense anyway!?

Thurs 13-Sat 15 February, Nightingale Club, Birmingham

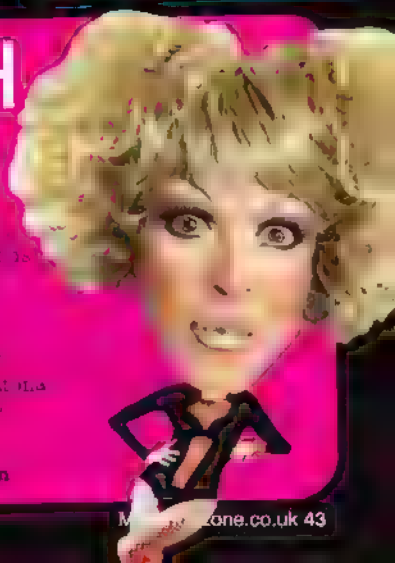
Miss Thunderpussy



International drag superstar Miss Thunderpussy uses 2020's extra day to visit Dudley and present an evening of cheeky banter, dirty talkin' and blinding tunes!

Sat 29 February,
Bar Diva, Dudley

DRAG WITH NO NAME



The [illegible] Drag [illegible] No Name returns to the Midlands for a fabulous evening of [illegible] comedy and [illegible] performances from Gaga to Britney Jessie J to My Big Fat Greek Wedding and Kerry Katona to [illegible] Beyoncé [illegible]

Friday 21 February,
The Village Inn, Birmingham

What's On

Trixie Lee

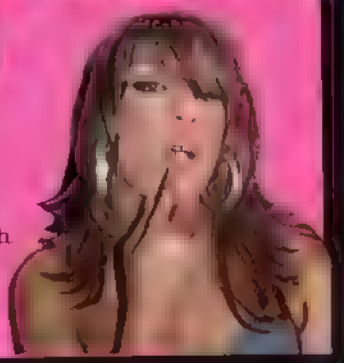
Fri 28 February, The Yard, Coventry

PAST, PRESENT FUTURE

DJ Simon Baker spins the decks with tracks aplenty on the third Friday of every month. Well worth checking out!

Friday 21 February, Eden Bar, Birmingham

The Whore of Hampstead Heath SANDRA



The Whore of Hampstead Heath will get you in the party spirit when she plays The Village Inn on the last Friday of the month.

Birmingham Fetish Weekend

Are you a fetish kinda guy? If so, then here's a date for your diary! The Birmingham Fetish Weekend next month includes the annual Mr Leather UK finals, which are being held in the city for the very first time.

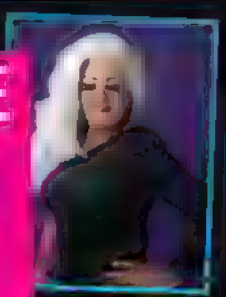
13-15 March - taking place at several Birmingham venues, including Eden Bar, The Loft, The Fountain, The Nightingale Club and Boltz

Dick 'N' Dom IN DA YARD

BOGIES! Enjoy some noughties nostalgia as kids' TV legends Dick 'n' Dom get DJing on the last day of the month.

Saturday 29 February, The Yard, Coventry

KITTY MONROE



Meow! This must-have queen can't get everybody purring with her wild, glitzy and [illegible]

Fri 21 February, The Yard, Coventry

Jade Justine

This blue-haired bombshell is bringing her musical theatre talents to The Boston and we can hardly contain our excitement!

Saturday 22 February, The Boston, Northampton

OTHER EVENTS INCLUDE:

Saturday 1 Feb

NYE House Party, The Re-Run Chic, Birmingham
Balloon Prize Pop Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

Wednesday 5 Feb

Men's Night The Crown Inn, Derby

Friday 7 Feb

SO IT GOES Chic, Birmingham

Sunday 9 Feb

Cineden Eden Bar, Birmingham

Friday 14 Feb

Dragpunk's Alternative Valentine's Ball Eden Bar, Birmingham
Dirty Disco and 80s Fancy Dress Competition The Yard, Coventry

Saturday 15 Feb

Cabaret act tbc Eden Bar, Birmingham
FRSH The Valentine All Nighter Chic, Birmingham

Thursday 20 Feb

SHOUT & Seeds: Faith in our Community The Nightingale Club, Birmingham

Friday 21 Feb

Midsbears Eden Bar, Birmingham
XXL Tunnel Club, Birmingham
SHOUT & Circle: Party Monster The Nightingale Club, Birmingham

Miss Marty

Sat 29 February
The Boston, Northampton

The Numan League

'80s synth pop tribute band!

Jon Hellyeah (aka DE Experience) and Jonathan Wakelin team up as The Numan League to perform a host of '80s synth pop classics. Don't miss them!

Saturday 29 February, Eden Bar, Birmingham

Back To The '80s

IN BIRMINGHAM GAY VENUES!

A host of Birmingham Gay Village venues are getting together to present a special Back To The '80s night. Time to dust off your Dandy Highwayman gear!

Saturday 29 February, Participating venues include: Eden Bar, The Village Inn, Missing Bar, The Nightingale, The Loft, and The Fox in Birmingham

Saturday 22 Feb

Mother's Meeting: Art Ball Eden Bar, Birmingham
Club Scritches Eden Bar, Birmingham

Sunday 23 Feb

SHOUT & Brum Bi Group: Velvet Goldmine The Nightingale Club, Birmingham
Gamedem Eden Bar, Birmingham
Leather Social Eden Bar, Birmingham
Ripper Gossip, Stoke

Tuesday 25 Feb

The Big Fat Gay Quiz The Dover Castle, Leicester

The Loft

INTRODUCING OUR BRAND NEW cocktail MENU

www.theloftbrum.co.uk
143 Bromsgrove Street Birmingham B5 6RG • 0121 622 2444

GAY BARS & CLUBS IN THE MIDLANDS...

Birmingham

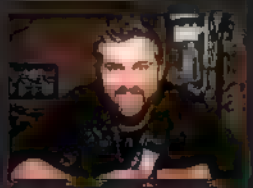
EDEN BAR

Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar

EVERY MONDAY 8PM
Quizzical with DJ Yogi

EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY
Karaoke & Disco with DJ Nikki

EVERY SATURDAY
DJ Tmi Lee & DJ Pom alternate weeks



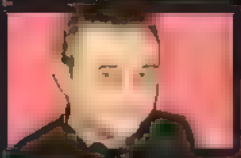
GLAMOROUS BIRMINGHAM

27-35 Hurst St, B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 5912
glamorousbirmingham.co.uk
/GlamorousBirmingham

EVERY MONDAY
DJ Mike Emery

The Loft, Birmingham

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Midweek Wednesdays DJ Mike Emery



EVERY THURSDAY
Thirsty Thursdays with Pam Catz

EVERY FRIDAY
Fabuleus Fridays open until 6am

EVERY SATURDAY
Sparkle Pop Saturdays with Pam Catz

THE LOFT

12 Bromsgrove St, B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
Queeny's Quiz

EVERY MONDAY
Monday Cocktail Club 2 for £10

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Wing it Wednesday - Kilo of wings and drink £10

MISSING BAR

Hurst St, B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar

EVERY MONDAY UNTIL 4AM
Ministry of Pound with DJ Mike Emery

EVERY TUESDAY
Karaoke with Gavina Vagina

EVERY THURSDAY 9PM
Thursdays with DJ Gavina £1.50 bombs

EVERY FRIDAY 9PM
Hit Man and Her with DJ Mike Emery & Gavina Vagina

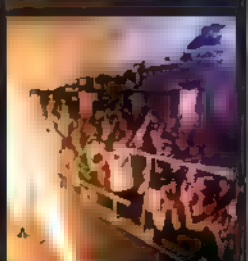
EVERY SATURDAY
Missing's House Party with DJ Matty, DJ Mike Emery and host Twiggy

EVERY SUNDAY 8.30pm & 10.30pm
Camp as f*ck with Amy LaQueefa and guest cabaret

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

Kent St, B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub

EVERY THURSDAY
Pounded! with £1 drinks all night



EVERY FRIDAY
Absolute Anthems with DJs Corey Hadley and Scott Hilton

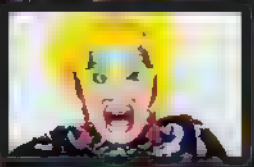
EVERY SATURDAY
Nightingale Saturdays with free entry until 12pm

THE VILLAGE INN

Hurst St, B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham

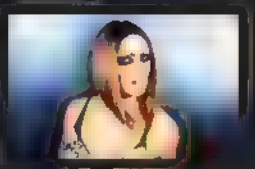
EVERY MONDAY 9PM
Bingo with Queeny

EVERY TUESDAY
Pick n Mix with Ginny Lemon + Blanche



EVERY WEDNESDAY
Karaoke with Pork Pie

EVERY THURSDAY
Thirsty Thursdays with Miss Marty



EVERY SUNDAY
Yshee Black + special guests

PLUS THESE VENUES

BOLTZ CLUB
Lower Essex St, B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

CLUB CHIC
28 Horsefair, B1 1DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

DEVILS KITCHEN
Kent St, B5 6NB

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St, B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St, B5 6SN
Tel: 0121 622 3213

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

SPARTAN HEALTH CLUB
127 George Road, B23 7SH
Tel: 0121 382 3345

UNIT 2
78 Lower Essex St, B5 6SN
Tel: 0121 622 7070

COVENTRY

GLAMOROUS COVENTRY

88 Short St, CV1 2LX
glamorouscoventry.co.uk
/GlamorousCoventry

EVERY MONDAY
Happy Hour all night

EVERY TUESDAY
Karaoke and prize games

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Affir Drk with the biggest House and R'n'B hits

EVERY THURSDAY
KaPownd Thursdays with £1 drinks all night

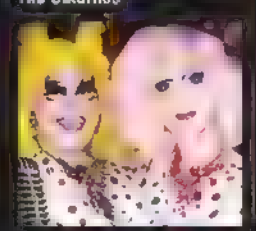
EVERY FRIDAY
Thank Pam it's Friday! with Pam Catz

EVERY SATURDAY
Haus of Cube cabaret with Jelly Cube

THE YARD

11-12 Bull Yard, CV1 1LH
Tel: 02475 012 959
theyardcoventry.co.uk
/TheYardCoventry

EVERY TUESDAY
Quiz of random things with The Saturnos



EVERY WEDNESDAY
Live music with Tom Barnwell & Jade Justine

EVERY THURSDAY
Free Shot Karaoke

EVERY FRIDAY
Dirty Disco 80's Night and cabaret

EVERY SATURDAY
Identity with DJ Simon Baker

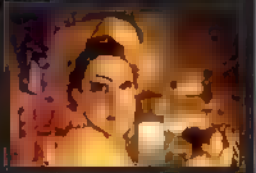
EVERY SUNDAY
Bingo 'n' sh*t

DUDLEY

BAR DIVA

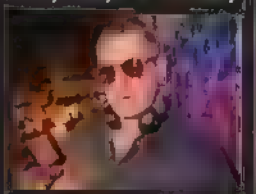
76 Lower Plaza Mall, King Street, DY2 8NZ
/BarDivaThePlaceToBe

EVERY MONDAY
Mish Mash Monday with Miss Annie



EVERY THURSDAY
The Price Is Right with Miss Annie

EVERY FRIDAY
Freaky Fridays with DJ Mikey



EVERY SATURDAY
Cabaret Saturdays with Miss Annie

EVERY SUNDAY
Sunday Social with Miss Marty and Miss Annie

SHREWSBURY

HAVANA REPUBLIC

18-21 Abbey Foregate, SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
havanarepublic.co.uk
/HavanaRepublic

EVERY MONDAY
Fabulous Mondays with Miss Penny and guest cabaret every 1st and 3rd Monday

THE PEACH TREE

18-21 Abbey Foregate
Tel: 01743 355055
thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

STOKE-ON-TRENT

GOSSIP
5 Hope Street, ST1 5BT
Tel: 07399 664955

PINK
93 Stafford Street, ST1 1LS
Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

HEROES HEALTH CLUB
5 Lower High St, DY8 1TE

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd, Madeley, TF7 4JB, 01952 588521

WALSALL

THE LION
Tel: 01922 610977

THE RED LION
Park St, WS1 1NW

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

GREENHOUSE

Willenhall Road, WS10 8JG
Tel: 0121 568 6126

WOLVERHAMPTON

GORGEOUS

School St, WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247
/gorgeousbar

EVERY THURSDAY 1AM-6AM
Balsed Up! Thursdays

EVERY FRIDAY 12AM-6AM
Fab Fridays

EVERY SATURDAY 12AM-6AM
The Breakfast Club

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor, WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780220

DERBY

THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St, DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 361742

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE
34 Dover St, LE1 6PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St, LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
185 Charles St, LE1 1LA

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

AMIGOS LEISURE
30 Bedford St South, LE1 3JR
Tel: 0116 251 1955

CLUB 29
29 New Bond St, LE1 4RQ
Tel: 0116 262 7770

SPLASH SPA & LEISURE
61 Bedford St South, LE1 3JR
Tel: 0116 367 3932

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON

College St, NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404
/thebostonnorthampton

EVERY FRIDAY
Pink Pounder with £1 drinks feat. DJ Darren S

EVERY SATURDAY
Live cabaret at 10pm

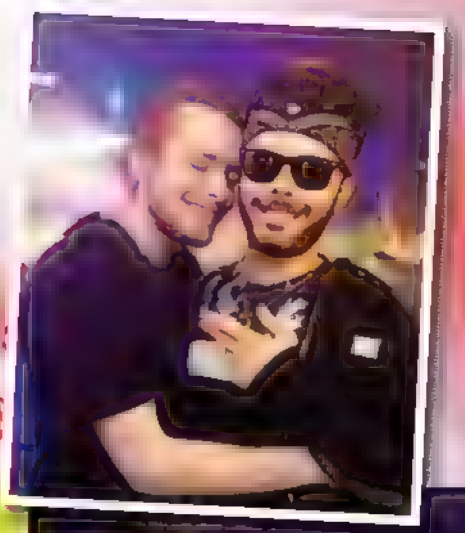
EVERY SUNDAY
Karaoke with Jeeyake

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS
18 St. Anns St, NG1 3LX
Tel: 0115 958 0432
/gaybar.nottingham

PROPAGANDA
8-10 Broadway, Lace Market
Tel: 0115 979 9183
/PropagandaNottingham

Nightingale Club, Birmingham



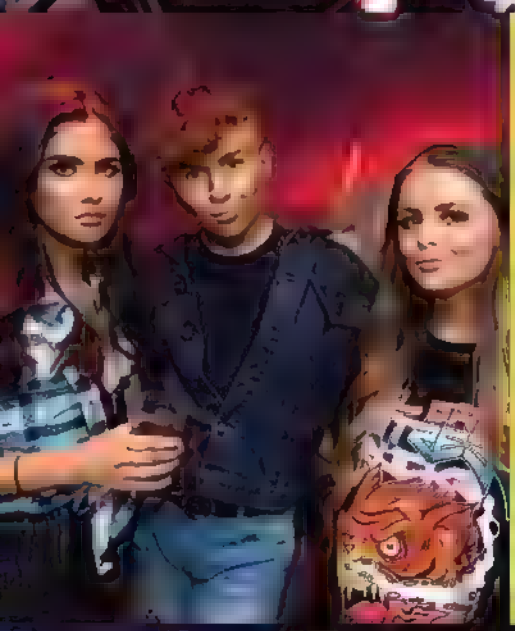
THE NIGHTINGALE

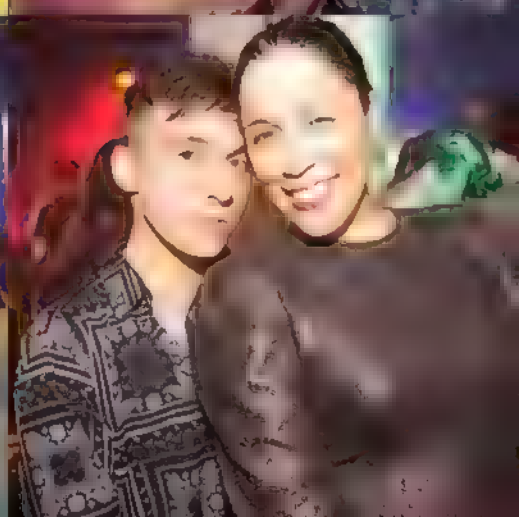
BIRMINGHAM

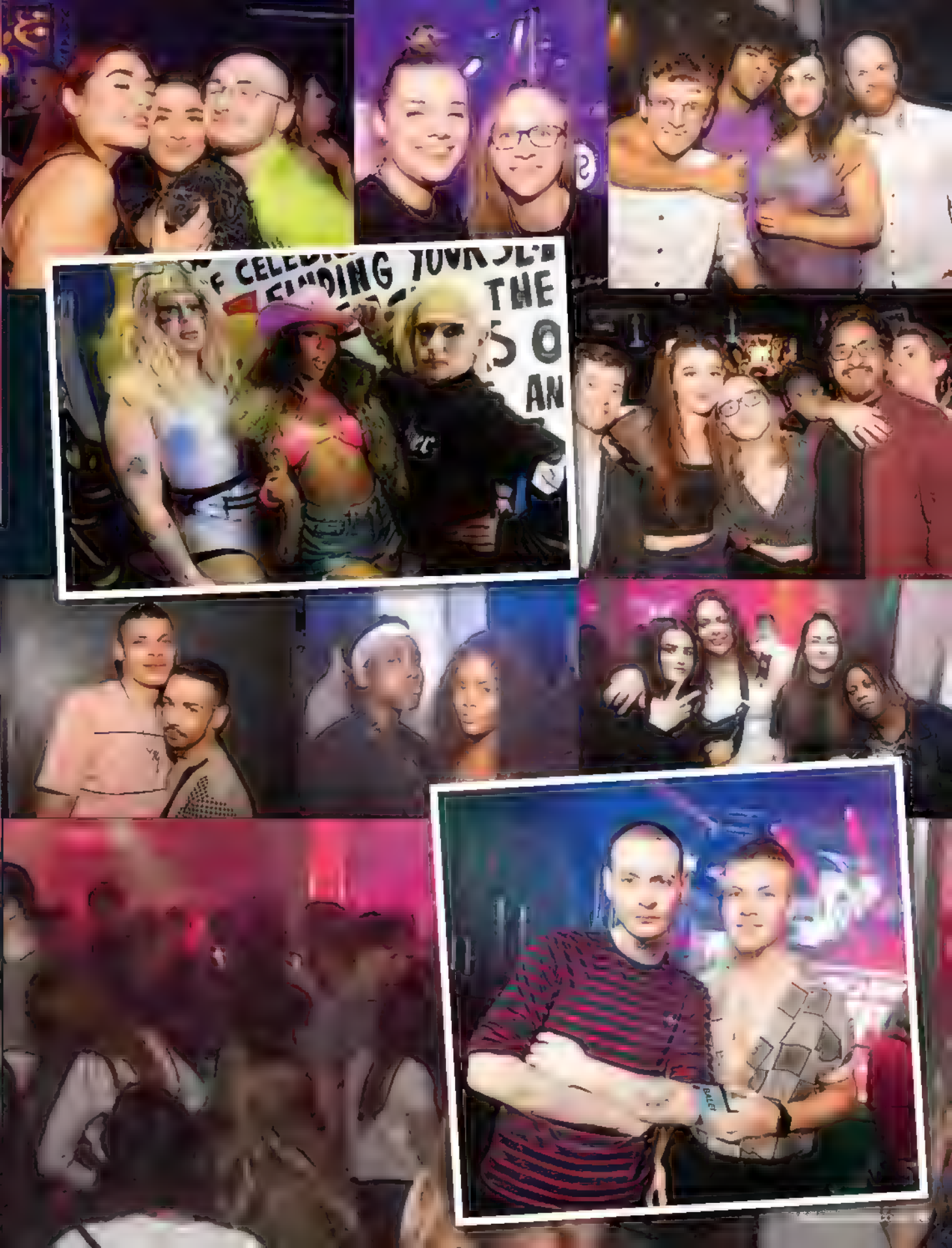
The Nightingale Club is maybe the busiest venue in Birmingham's Gay Village – and with three floors of music and great drinks deals, that's hardly surprising!

The venue is 'putting on a show' for its singleton customers this month, courtesy of a sure-to-be-fun Anti-Valentine's Bring-Your-BFF Weekender.

(*Check the back cover for more details)







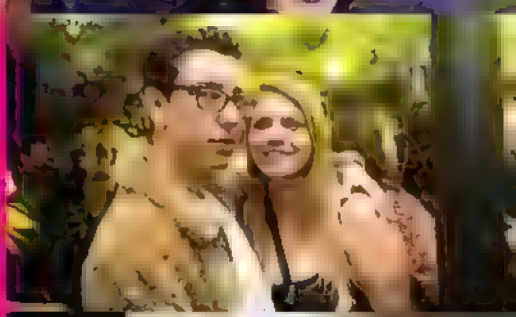
VILLAGE INN

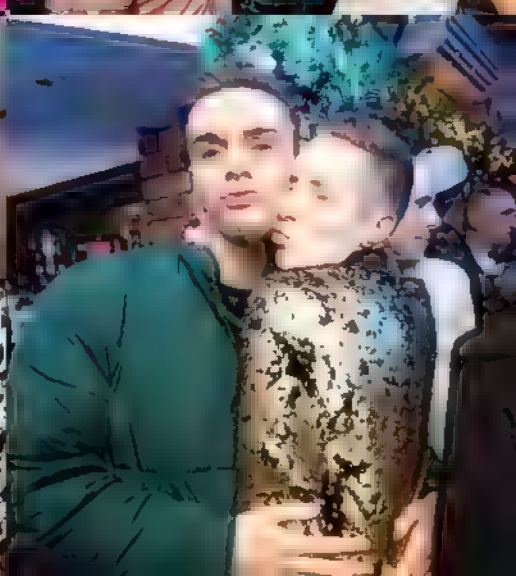
BIRMINGHAM

Open seven days a week and boasting karaoke and cabaret galore, The Village Inn has no trouble pulling in the crowds!

Ava Cardo, Drag With No Name and Sandra London are the top drag acts gracing the venue's stage this month. There's the fabulous Ginny Lemon too, hosting a Valentine's Day Blind Date as the iconic Cilla Black!

(check advert for more details)





FEBRUARY 2020

FRI 7TH FEB

AVA CARDO

FRI 21ST FEB

DRAG WITH NO NAME

VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL

FRI 14TH FEB

BLIND DATE WITH

GINNY LEMON AS CILLA BLACK

FRI 28TH FEB

SANDRA LONDON

MONDAYS

QUEENY'S BINGO
GUARANTEED
£120 WEEKLY

L8R MONDAYS
£1 DRINKS & OPEN TIL 4AM

TUESDAYS

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT WITH BLANCHE

CASH PRIZES

WEDNESDAYS

KARAOKE WITH PORKPIE

THURSDAYS

MISS MARTY'S
THIRSTY THURSDAYS

CABARET & GAMES

SUNDAYS

YSHEE'S BIG! BIG!
HAUS PARTY

PERFORMANCE
VARIETY

THE VILLAGE INN

@VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM @THEVILLAGEBRUM @VILLAGEBRUM

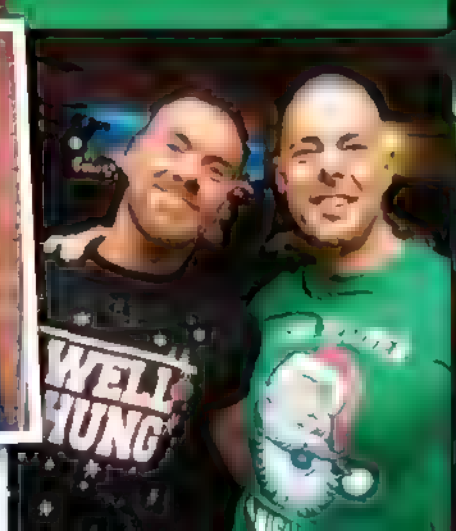
EDEN BAR

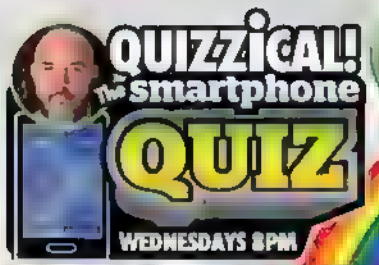
BIRMINGHAM

Eden Bar in Birmingham's Gay Village presents the very best cabaret from across the country.

This month's highlights include performances by Danny Beard and Peppycock, while The Human League will be making their Eden debut and playing all the '80s greats on Saturday 29 February...

(see advert opposite for more details)





WITH DJ YOGI SpeedQuizzing

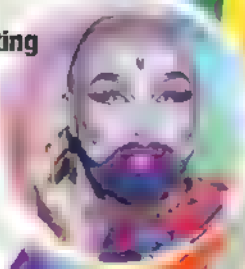
WITH DJ NIKKI

FEBRUARY

eden

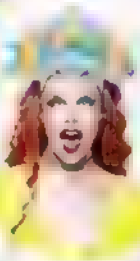
@ The Marquee

Fri 14th
Drag Punk
Sat 22nd
Mother's Meeting



SAT 1ST **DANNY BEARD**

SAT 8TH **POPPYCOCK**



FRI 21ST **MIDS BEARS**

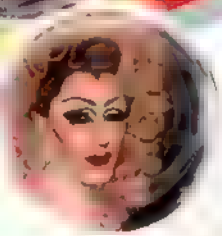
FRI 21ST **PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE**

DJ SIMON BAKER

11PM-3AM – FREE ENTRY – MARQUEE

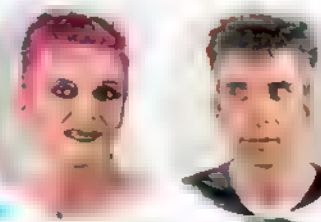
SAT 22ND **BRENDA LABEAU**

SAT AFTERNOON CLUB SCRATCHES



SUN 23RD **LEATHER SOCIAL**

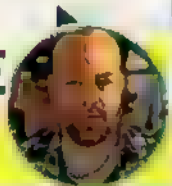
SAT 29TH **THE HUMAN LEAGUE 80s NIGHT**



Cinéden
3PM SUN 9TH

den
3 PM SUN 23RD

DJ TONI LEE
SAT 1ST – SAT 15TH
SAT 29TH



DJ PONI
SAT 8TH
SAT 22ND

Open from 2pm Mon-Fri 2pm Sat & Sun | 116 Sherlock St. Birmingham, B5 6NB | 0121 622 1953 | www.TheEdenBar.co.uk

THE YARD

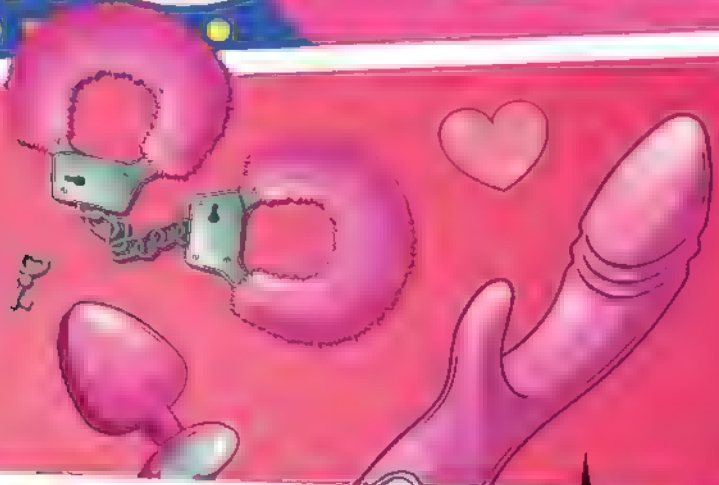
COVENTRY

One of Coventry's busiest and best LGBTQ+ venues, The Yard is packed out week after week

The venue is hosting a 1980s fancy-dress competition on Friday the 14th, so get dolled up in your very best retro gear and see if you can bag £100 to spend at Ann Summers!

There's more nostalgia to enjoy on the 29th too, when Dick'n'Dom entertain with a live DJ set and a game of Bogies! (see advert for more details)

FEBRUARY AT THE YARD



FRIDAY 14TH

VALENTINES DAY

80'S FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

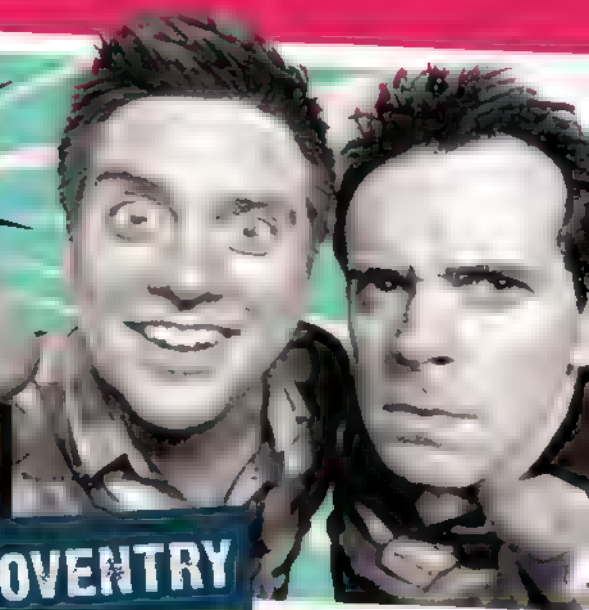
DIRTY DISCO

THE BEST OF THE 80'S

WIN £100 TO SPEND AT

SATURDAY 29TH FEBRUARY

DICK N DOM IN DA YARD



LIVE D.J SET!

BOGIES!

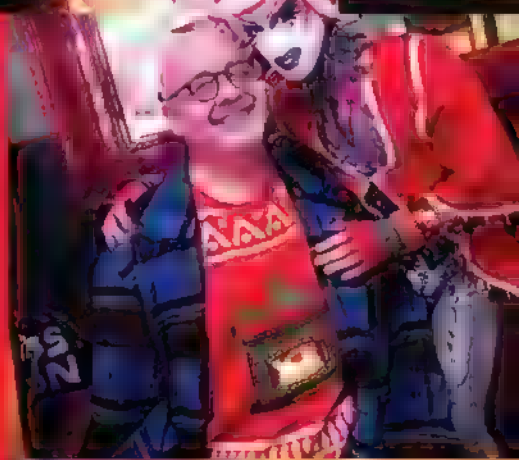
THEYARDCOVENTRY

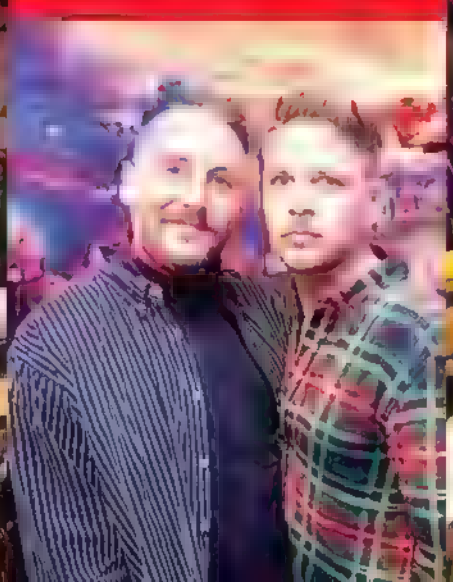
THEYARDCOVENTRY.CO.UK

MISSING
BIRMINGHAM

Known as 'Birmingham's party bar', Missing on Hurst Street provides punters with a fun-filled night of quality cabaret in the company of a great crowd!

This month the venue will be hosting a Traffic Light Party across Valentine's weekend, with Missing's very own Amy Lattewell puckering up in a charity kissing booth on Sunday the 16th. (see advert opposite for more details)





Missing

CHOOSE A WRISTBAND ...

SINGLE AND READY TO MINGLE

UNDECIDED, CALL ME MAYBE

TAKEN, HERE FOR THE SHAKIN'

Valentines

TRAFFIC LIGHT PARTY

14TH - 16TH FEBRUARY

Pucker Up Baby!

AMY LAQUEEFA'S KISSING BOOTH SUNDAY 16TH

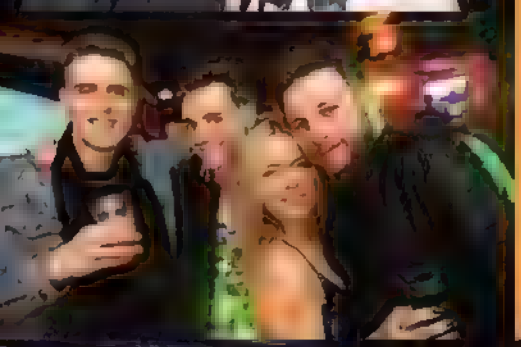
£1 A KISS WITH ALL PROCEEDS TO CHARITY!

BAR DIVA

Bar Diva welcomed in 2020 not only with a bang but also with a brand new weekly line-up. New attractions include The Price Is Right Thursdays with Miss Annie and Sunday Socials with Miss Marty.

Cabaret Saturdays, meanwhile, this month features Miss Amber, Tina Sparkle and Miss Thunderpussy.

(see advert for more details)



BAR DIVA!

BLACKPOOL'S VERY OWN MISS AMBER

TINA SPARKLE

MISS THUNDERPUSSY

SAT 1 FEB

SAT 15 FEB

SAT 29 FEB

ALL NEW WEEK NIGHTS FOR 2020!

MONDAYS MISH MASH MONDAYS WITH MISS ANNIE

THURSDAYS THE PRICE IS RIGHT WITH MISS ANNIE AND GUESTS

FRIDAYS FREAKY FRIDAYS WITH DJ MIKEY AND GUEST DJS

SATURDAYS CABARET SATURDAYS WITH TOP CLASS CABARET

SUNDAYS SUNDAY SOCIAL WITH MISS MARTY + MISS ANNIE

BAR DIVA

LOWER PLAZA MALL, KING STREET, DUDLEY DY2 8NZ

COME

/BarDivaThePlaceToBe

GORGEOUS

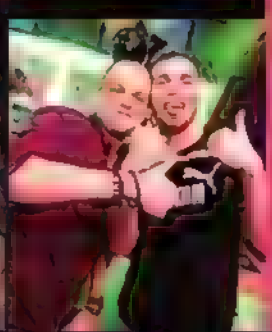
WOLVERHAMPTON

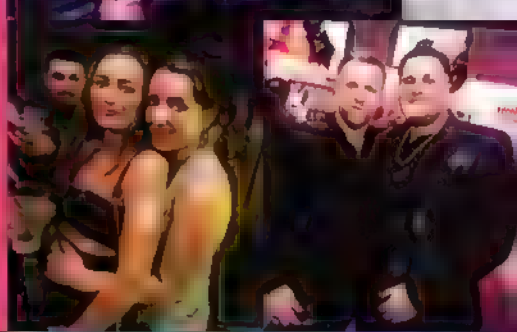
[redacted]

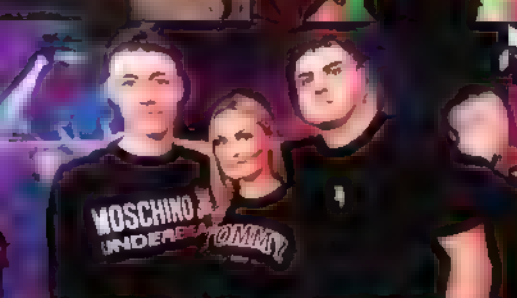
from 11pm till 6am.

There's Fab Fridays to enjoy too,

[redacted]







GORGEOUS
THURSDAY 1-6AM | FRIDAY 12-6AM | SATURDAY 11PM-6AM
2 BARS | VIP BOOTHS | VIP LOUNGE
KEEPING
WOLVERHAMPTON
OUT!
OFFICIALLY THE MIDLANDS BEST GAY NIGHTCLUB! (MIDLANDS ZONE AWARDS)
WWW.GORGEOUSCLUB.CO.UK
FACEBOOK:/GORGEOUSNIGHTCLUB TWITTER:@GORGEOUSWTON
GORGEOUS, SCHOOL STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV1 4LF. 01902 771122

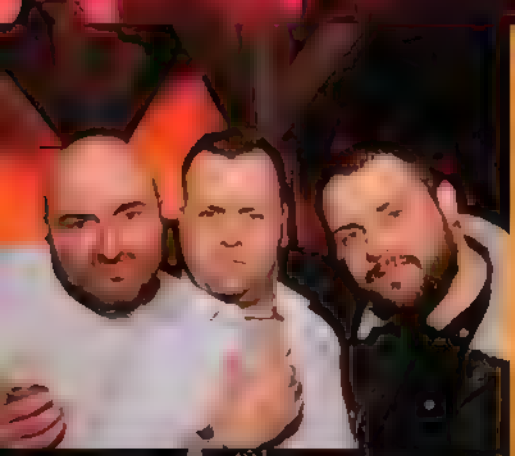
THE BOSTON

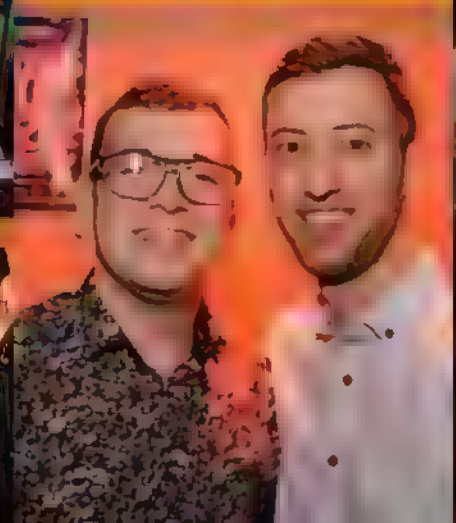
NORTHAMPTON

The Boston is Northampton's only LGBTQ+ venue and brings the party to town six days a week!

Every Saturday night the venue welcomes the very best cabaret artists from across the country. This month's line-up includes Tina Sparkle, Wilma Fingadoo and Fanny Burns.

(See advert opposite for more details)





THE BOSTON
NORTHAMPTON

LIVE CABARET
EVERY SATURDAY 10PM

SAT 1 FEB	SAT 8 FEB	SAT 15 FEB	SAT 22 FEB	SAT 29 FEB	SAT 7 MAR
TINA SPARKLE	LOLA LASAGNE	WILMA FINGADOG	JADE JUSTINE	MISS MARTY	FANNY BURNS

FREE ENTRY B4 11 · OPEN UNTIL 6AM · FREE SHOT WITH EVERY DRINK
(BETWEEN 9PM - 11PM)

//// FRIDAYS
PINK POUNDER (£1 DRINKS)

Feat. DJ DARREN S
Playing The Best Pop / Chart / Dance / R&B
MOST DRINKS ONLY £1.00 EACH
£9 ENTRY | 10PM - 4:30AM
+ FANTASTIC DEALS ON
SHOTS & BOMBS

SUNDAYS ////
KARAOKE

Feat. JOEYOKE
1000'S OF SONGS AVAILABLE
FREE ENTRY ALL NIGHT
2 X COCKTAILS 4 £8.50
4 X BOMBS 4 £10.00
10PM - 2AM

pub

THE BOSTON, COLLEGE ST, NORTHAMPTON, NN1 2QP . 01604 604404
FACEBOOK.COM/THEBOSTONNORTHAMPTON

HAVANA ★ REPUBLIC

PRESENTS

Miss Penny's FABULOUS MONDAYS!

THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT OUT IN THE MIDLANDS

Special guest cabaret nights

POPPY COCK

MARY GOLDS

SANDRA LONDON

FREE ENTRY B4 12!

OPEN UNTIL 4AM!

GREAT £1 DRINKS

18 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SY2 6AE // 01743 271821

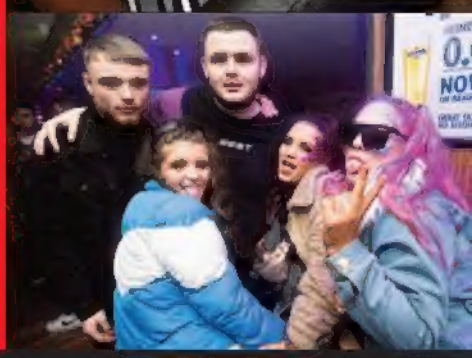
GLAMOROUS

BIRMINGHAM & COVENTRY

It's always party time at Glamorous, open seven days a week and licensed until 6am!

The popular venue also has a brand new line-up for 2020 – so make sure to check it out!

(see advert below for more details)



GLAMOROUS

BAR & NIGHTCLUB

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK! LICENSED UNTIL 6AM!

NEW LINE-UP FOR 2020!

BIRMINGHAM

WEEKEND AFTERPARTY MONDAYS
WITH DJ MIKE EMERY

TEMPTED? TUESDAYS
WITH PAM CATZ

MIDWEEK WEDNESDAYS
PLAYING THE BIG ANTHEMS
WITH DJ MIKE EMERY

THIRSTY THURSDAYS
AMAZING DRINK OFFERS UNTIL 2AM
WITH DJ MIKE EMERY

FABULOUS FRIDAYS
START YOUR WEEKEND RIGHT
WITH PAM CATZ! OPEN 12AM - 6AM

SPARKLE POP SATURDAYS
PLAYING POP, CHART, DANCE, DISNEY
AND SHOW TUNES WITH DJ PAM CATZ

31 HURST ST, BIRMINGHAM, B5 4BD

COVENTRY

KAMIKAZE KARAOKE TUESDAYS
KARAOKE AND OPEN THE BOX
WITH JELLY CUBE

AFTR DRK WEDNESDAYS
STUDENTS DISCOUNTS & THE
BIGGEST HOUSE AND R'N'B TUNES

KAPOWND THURSDAYS
£1 DRINKS ALL NIGHT
WITH RICHARD ALEXANDER

THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY!
HUGE ANTHEMS FROM
RICHARD ALEXANDER

HAUS OF CUBE SATURDAYS
LOCAL TALENT SHOWCASE FROM 9PM

88 SHORT ST, COVENTRY, CV1 2LX

THE LOFT

BIRMINGHAM

With craft beers, contemporary cocktails, a locally sourced food menu, speciality gins and a fully heated garden in the heart of Birmingham, what's not to love about The Loft!

This month the bar is launching its brand new cocktail menu – so why not head on down and give 'em a try, bab!

Part of What's On MEDIA GROUP

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THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB

the Anti-Valentine's Bring-Your-BFF Weekender!

THURS 13TH FEB

£1 DRINKS
POUNDED
FREE ENTRY BEFORE 11PM

FRI 14TH FEB

£2 DRINKS
ABSOLUTE ANTHEMS
FREE ENTRY BEFORE 12AM

SAT 15TH FEB

CHEAP DRINKS
3 FLOORS OF MUSIC
FREE ENTRY BEFORE 12AM

@THENIGHTINGALECLUB @THENIGHTINGALECLUB @NIGHTINGALECLUB